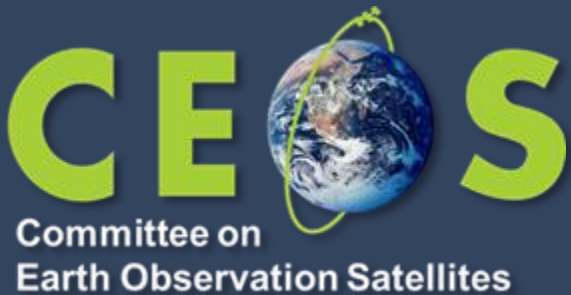


WGCV-55

Land Product Validation (LPV) sub-group report



Fabrizio Niro (Serco/ESA)
Agenda Item 2.2, WGCV-55
Hyderabad, India, 8-10 July 2025

- ❖ LPV internal structure and team
- ❖ ECVs and EBVs requirements
- ❖ LPV Validation Framework
- ❖ LPV protocols, datasets and tools
- ❖ LPV Supersites Update
- ❖ Reports from LPV Focus Areas
- ❖ Summary and Outlook



LPV Structure and Team



	First Name	Last Name	Institution	Country	End of Term
Admin	Fabrizio	Niro	ESA	Italy	Apr 2028
	Vacant				
Land Cover	Jaime	Nickeson	GSFC	USA	
	Alexandra	Tyukavina	University of Maryland	USA	Mar 2027 (2nd term)
	Nandika	Tsendbazar	Wageningen University	Netherlands	April 2027 (1st term)
Biophysical	Sophie	Bontemps	Université Catholique de Louvain	Belgium	ex-officio
	Richard	Fernandes	Natural Resources Canada	Canada	Apr 2027 (one term)
	Hao	Teng	University of Maryland	USA	April 2027 (1st term)
Fire/Burn Area	Luke	Brown	University of Salford	UK	Jan 2026 (1st term)
	Louis	Giglio	University of Maryland	USA	Sep 2026 (2nd term)
	Bernardo	Mota	National Physical Lab	UK	Jan 2026 (1st term)
Surface Rad	Zhuosen	Wang	GSFC	USA	ex-officio
	Angela	Erb	Leidos	USA	Jan 2026 (1st term)
	Jorge	Sanchez-Zapero	EOLab	Spain	Jan 2026 (1st term)
Soil Moisture	John	Bolten	NASA GSFC	USA	Apr 2026 (2nd term)
	Alexander	Gruber	TU Wien	Austria	Oct 2026 (1st term)
LST	Thomas	Holmes	NASA/GSFC	USA	Dec 2028 (1st term)
	Lluis	Perez Planells	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology	Germany	Sept 2026 (1st term)
Phenology	Joshua	Gray	North Carolina State University	USA	Jan 2025 (2nd term)
	Victor	Rodríguez-Galiano	University of Seville	Spain	Aug 2025 (2nd term)
Snow Cover	Carrie	Vuyovich	NASA GSFC	USA	Jan 2026 (1st term)
	Juha	Lemmetyinen	Finnish Meteorological Inst.	Finland	Sep 2026 (1st term)
Veg Index	Tomoaki	Miura	University of Hawai'i	USA	ex-officio
	Simon	Kraatz	USDA	USA	Apr 2027 (1st term)
	Vacant				
Biomass	Laura	Duncanson	UMD/GSFC	USA	ex-officio
	Kim	Calders	Ghent University	Belgium	Feb 2026 (1st term)
	Neha	Hunka	ESA/ESRIN	Italy	Feb 2026 (1st term)
ET	Yun	Yang	Cornell University	USA	Jan 2027 (1st term)
	Carmelo	Cammalleri	Politecnico di Milano	Italy	Jan 2027 (1st term)
GPP/NPP	Arthur	Endsley	University of Montana	USA	Sept 2027 (1st term)
	Álvaro	Moreno	University of Valencia	Spain	Nov 2027 (1st term)

New

ex-officio

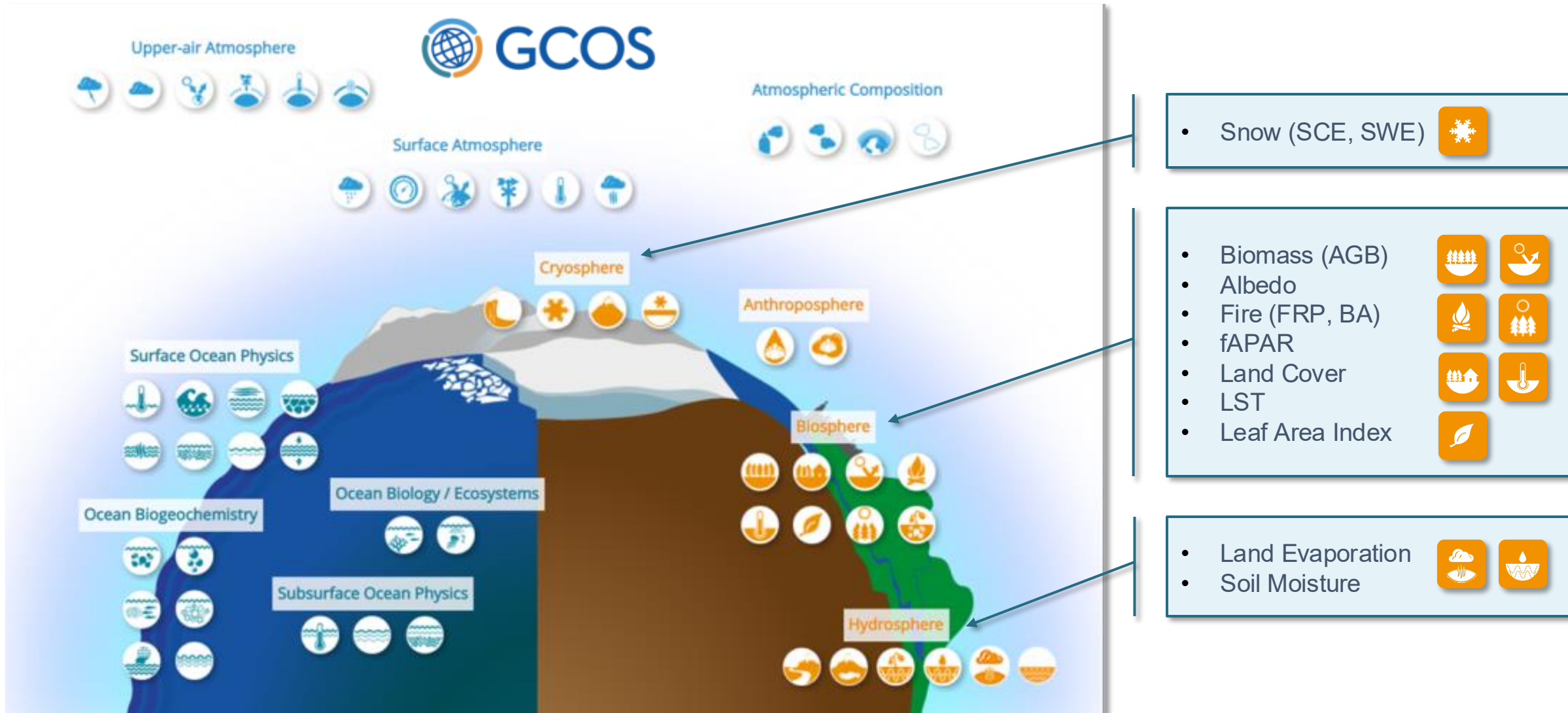
end of term

approaching

Vacant or beyond

end of term

ECVs addressed by LPV



Biodiversity metrics covered by LPV

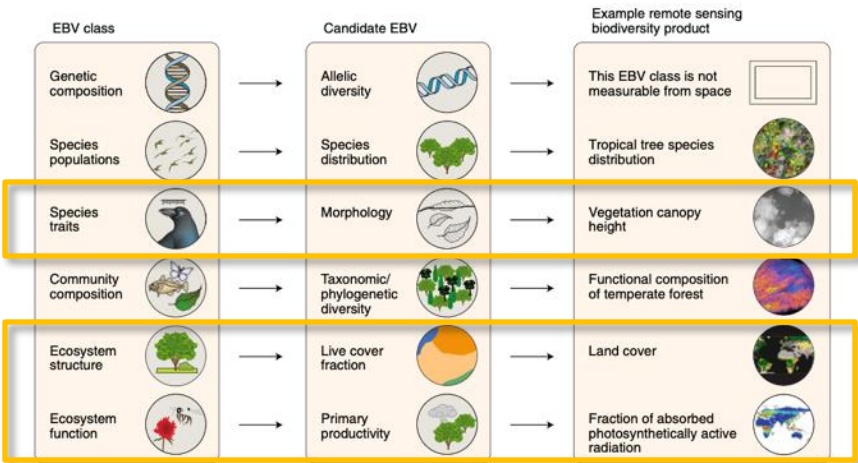


nature
ecology & evolution

PERSPECTIVE
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-021-01451-x>
[Check for updates](#)

Priority list of biodiversity metrics to observe from space

Andrew K. Skidmore^{1,2}, Nicholas C. Coops³, Elnaz Neinavaz¹, Abebe Ali^{1,4}, Michael E. Schaepman⁵, Marc Paganini⁶, W. Daniel Kissling⁷, Petteri Vihervaara⁸, Roshanak Darvishzadeh⁹, Hannes Feilhauer^{9,10}, Miguel Fernandez^{11,12}, Néstor Fernández^{13,14}, Noel Gorelick¹⁵, Ilse Geijzendorffer¹⁶, Uta Heiden¹⁷, Marco Heurich^{18,19}, Donald Hobern²⁰, Stefanie Holzwarth¹⁷, Frank E. Muller-Karger²¹, Ruben Van De Kerchove²², Angela Lausch^{23,24}, Pedro J. Leitão^{25,26}, Marcelle C. Lock^{1,2}, Caspar A. Muecher²⁷, Brian O'Connor²⁸, Duccio Rocchini^{29,30}, Woody Turner³¹, Jan Kees Vis³², Tiejun Wang¹, Martin Wegmann³³ and Vladimir Wingate³⁴



Skidmore et al 2021, Nature ecology and evolution

PERSPECTIVE NATURE ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION

Table 2 The 30 remote sensing biodiversity products with the highest rankings					
Number	Remote sensing biodiversity product	Remote sensing-enabled biodiversity variable	EBV class	Rank within EBV class	Rank across all EBV classes
1	Biological effects of fire disturbance (direction, duration, abruptness, magnitude, extent and frequency)	Ecosystem disturbance Habitat structure	Ecosystem function Ecosystem structure	1 1	1 1
2	Biological effects of irregular inundation	Ecosystem disturbance Habitat structure	Ecosystem function Ecosystem structure	1 1	1 1
3	LAI	Ecosystem physiology Habitat structure Species physiology	Ecosystem function Ecosystem structure Species traits	3 3 1	5 5 21
4	Land cover (vegetation type)	Habitat structure	Ecosystem structure	3	5
5	Ice cover habitat	Habitat structure	Ecosystem structure	5	8
6	Above-ground biomass	Habitat structure	Ecosystem structure	6	9
7	Foliar N/P/K content	Ecosystem physiology Species physiology	Ecosystem function Species traits	4 2	9 28
8	Net primary productivity	Ecosystem physiology Species physiology	Ecosystem function Species traits	5 2	11 28
9	Gross primary productivity	Ecosystem physiology	Ecosystem function Species physiology	5 2	11 28
10	Fraction of absorbed photosynthetically active radiation	Ecosystem physiology	Ecosystem function	5	11
11	Ecosystem fragmentation	Spatial configuration	Ecosystem structure	7	11
12	Ecosystem structural variance	Spatial configuration	Ecosystem structure	7	11
13	Urban habitat	Habitat structure	Ecosystem structure	7	11
14	Vegetation height	Habitat structure	Ecosystem structure	7	11
15	Plant area index profile (canopy cover)	Habitat structure	Ecosystem structure	7	11
16	Habitat structure	Habitat structure	Ecosystem structure	7	11
17	Fraction of vegetation cover	Habitat structure	Ecosystem structure	7	11
18	Specific leaf area	Ecosystem physiology Species morphology	Ecosystem function Species traits	8 2	22 28
19	Chlorophyll content and flux	Ecosystem physiology Species physiology	Ecosystem function Species traits	8 2	22 28
20	Land surface peak (maximum of season) Land surface green-up (start of season) Land surface senescence (end of season)	Ecosystem phenology Ecosystem phenology Ecosystem phenology	Ecosystem function Ecosystem function Ecosystem function	8 8 8	22 22 22
21	Carbon cycle (above-ground biomass)	Ecosystem physiology	Ecosystem function	8	22
22	Peak season (maximum of season)	Species phenology	Species traits	2	28
23	Green-up (start of season)	Species phenology	Species traits	2	28
24	Senescence (end of season)	Species phenology	Species traits	2	28
25	Leaf dry matter content	Species morphology	Species traits	2	28
26	Ecosystem soil moisture	Ecosystem physiology	Ecosystem function	14	28
27	Functional diversity	Community diversity	Community composition	1	38
28	Species abundance	Population abundance	Species population	1	46
29	Relative species abundance	Population abundance	Species population	1	46
30	Population density	Population structure by age/size class	Species population	1	46

- AGB
- Fire
- fAPAR
- Land Cover
- Leaf Area Index
- Soil Moisture

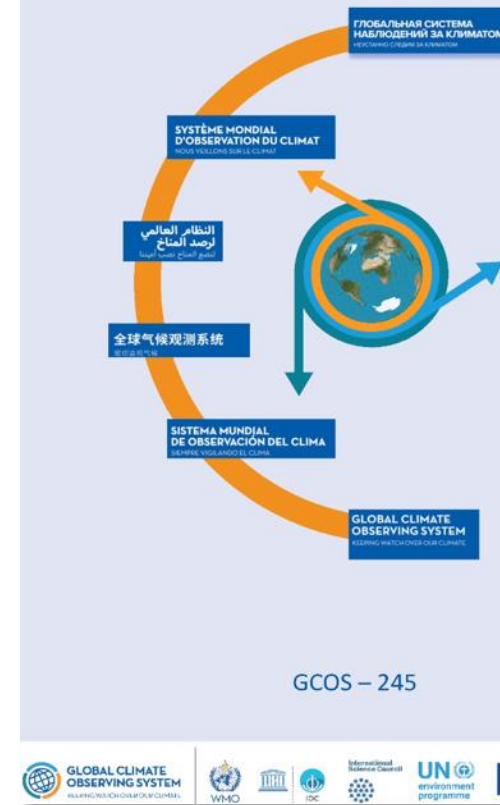
- Fraction Vegetation Cover
- Phenology
- Net Primary Production
- Gross Primary Production

ECVs and EBVs requirements



- ❖ GCOS **ECVs requirements**, e.g., temporal and spatial resolution, stability and uncertainty
- ❖ More stringent requirements in **2022 edition** for several ECVs
- ❖ These are the main drivers for developing **LPV protocols**
- ❖ **No mature** requirements yet for **biodiversity** metrics, work is ongoing to fill this gap

The 2022 GCOS ECVs Requirements



9.2 ECV: Albedo

9.2.1 ECV Product: Spectral and Broadband (Visible, Near Infrared and Shortwave) DHR & BHR* with Associated Spectral Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF) Parameters

Name	Spectral and Broadband (visible, near infrared and shortwave) DHR & BHR with Associated Spectral Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF) parameters (required to derive albedo from reflectance)			
Definition	The land surface albedo is the ratio of the radiant flux reflected from Earth's surface to the incident flux. Each spectral/broadband value depends on natural variations and is highly variable in space and time as a result of terrestrial properties changes, and with illumination conditions.			
Unit	Dimensionless			
Note	Length of record: Threshold: 20 years; Target: > 40 years			
	Requirements			
Item needed	Unit	Metric	(1) Value	Notes
Horizontal Resolution	m	G	10	Due to the heterogeneous nature of terrestrial surfaces, having surface albedo at such scale will increase accuracy for further assimilation of local/regional climate model.
			B	250
			T	Enable assimilation in earth/climate model.
Vertical Resolution		G	-	N/A
			B	-
			T	-
Temporal Resolution	day	G	1	For climate change services. Multi-angular instruments (including geostationary) and/or accumulation of daily data for BRDF parameters retrieval.
			B	10
			T	For assimilation in earth/climate model. Same as above as mono-angular. For climate change services.
Timeliness	day	G	1	For climate change services.
			B	5
			T	For NRT reanalysis.
Required Measurement Uncertainty	%	1 standard deviation or error covariance matrix, with associated PDF shape (functional form of estimated error distribution for the term)	G	3% for values >0.05; 0.0015 (absolute value) for smaller values
			B	5% for values >0.05; 0.0025 for smaller values
			T	See Ohring, et al. 2005
Stability	%/decade	G	< 1 %	Rate of change of surface albedo over the available time period (per decade). The required stability is some fraction of the expected signal* (see Ohring, et al. 2005)
			B	
			T	< 1.5 %

Boussetta S., Balsamo G., Dutra E., Beiljans A., Albergel C. (2015). Assimilation of surface albedo and vegetation states from satellite observations and their impact on numerical weather prediction, Remote Sensing of Environment, pp. 111-126. DOI:10.1016/j.rse.2015.03.009

Ohring, G., Wielicki, B., Spencer, R., Emery, B., & Dattia, R. (2005). Satellite instrument calibration for measuring global climate change: Report of a workshop. Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, 86(6), 1303-1314.

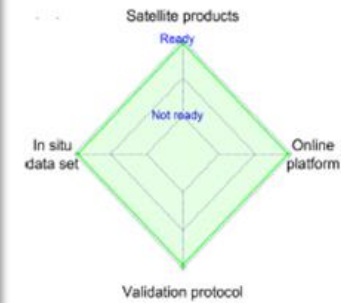
* DHR: Directional Hemispheric Reflectance; BHR: Bidirectional Hemispheric Reflectance.

LPV Validation Framework

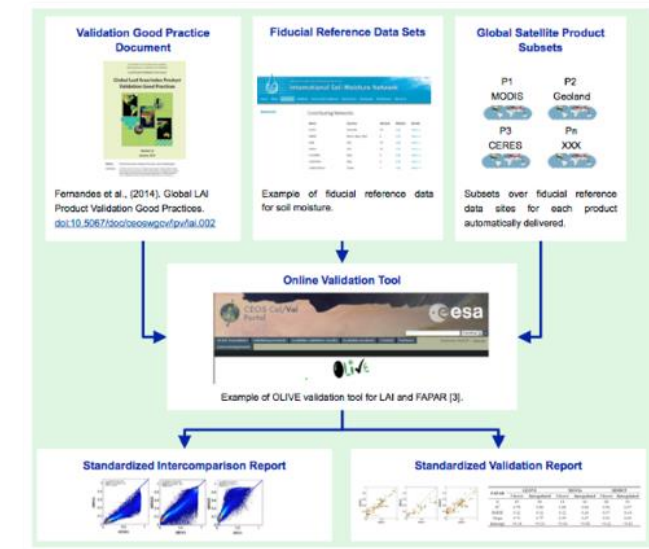


- ❖ LPV **maturity** concept / framework to ensure common approaches to the validation of terrestrial ECVs
- ❖ LPV framework basic **elements**:
 - Fiducial Reference Data
 - Validation Good Practices
 - Reference satellite products
 - On-line validation tools
- ❖ Availability of on-line validation **tool** prerequisite to reach **Stage “4”**

Validation Stages - Definition and Current State		Variable
0	No validation. Product accuracy has not been assessed. Product considered beta.	
1	Product accuracy is assessed from a small (typically < 30) set of locations and time periods by comparison with in situ or other suitable reference data.	Snow Fire Radiative Power
2	Product accuracy is estimated over a significant (typically > 30) set of locations and time periods by comparison with reference in situ or other suitable reference data. Spatial and temporal consistency of the product, and its consistency with similar products, has been evaluated over globally representative locations and time periods. Results are published in the peer-reviewed literature.	JAPAR Phenology Biomass
3	Uncertainties in the product and its associated structure are well quantified over a significant (typically > 30) set of locations and time periods representing global conditions by comparison with reference in situ or other suitable reference data. Validation procedures follow community-agreed-upon good practices. Spatial and temporal consistency of the product, and its consistency with similar products, has been evaluated over globally representative locations and time periods. Results are published in the peer-reviewed literature.	LAI LST & Emissivity Active Fire Burned Area Vegetation Indices
4	Validation results for stage 3 are systematically updated when new product versions are released or as the interannual time series expands. When appropriate for the product, uncertainties in the product are quantified using fiducial reference measurements over a global network of sites and time periods (if available).	Land Cover Albedo Soil Moisture



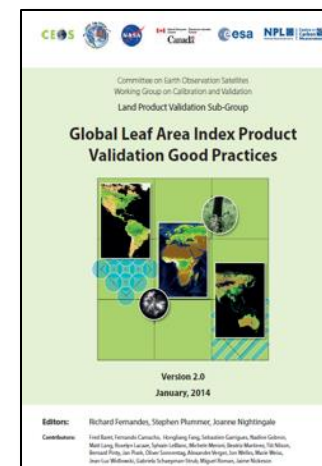
Bayat et al. 2020



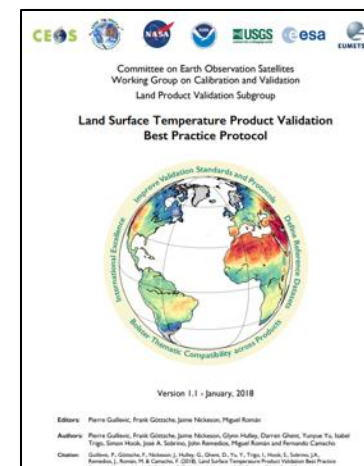
LPV Protocols



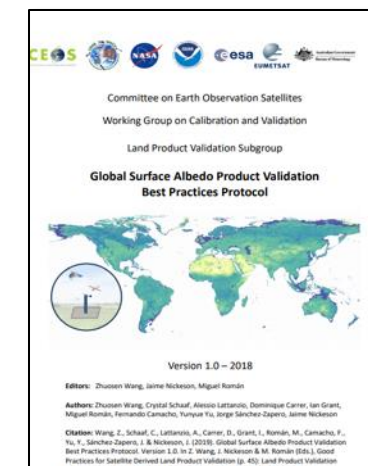
- ❖ **LC protocol** being finalised to be endorsed at WGCV / CEOS level !
- ❖ **LAI protocol** review: adding **fCover**, **fAPAR**, higher resolution data (**<100m**), RSE paper
- ❖ First draft **VI protocol**



2014 - LAI



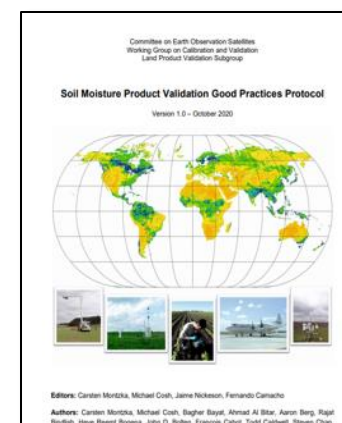
2018 - LST



2019 - Albedo

Year	AGB	SM	Albedo	LST	LAI*
2016					53
2017				17	58
2018				104	142
2019			126	79	95
2020		102	122	106	134
2021	445	126	90	81	129
2022	188	55	48	52	93
2023	239	77	60	79	104
2024	328	69	58	105	136
2025^	92	49	13	21	24
Totals	1292	478	517	644	968

*LAI missing stats from Aug2014 - Jun2016, ^thru May



2020 - SM



2021 - AGB



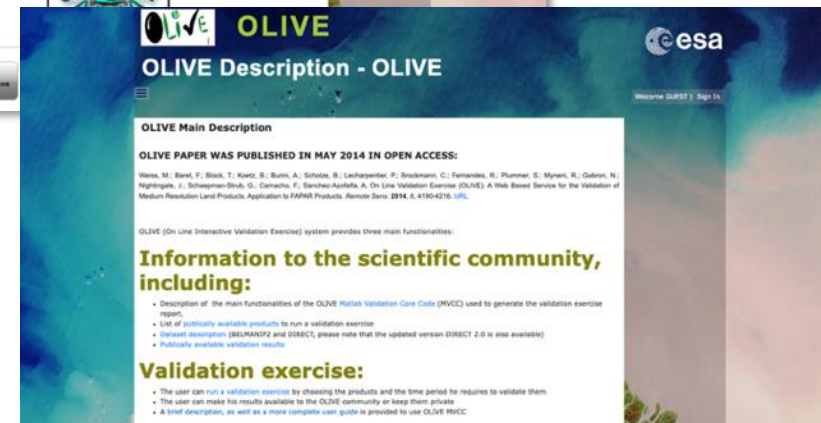
2025 - LC

LPV Datasets and Tools



❖ Available in Cal/Val portal:

- **LPV Direct 2.1 dataset** for LAI, fAPAR, fCover coarse resolution
- **SALVAL Tool** for broadband albedo coarse resolution using ground-based data and reference satellite products
- **OLIVE Tool** for LAI/fAPAR outdated, long-standing open **action** → ESA project to update this tool, start 2026 (TBC)



LPV communications



- ❖ Annual Newsletters (email)
- ❖ Quarterly telecons (Web)
- ❖ Yearly **tag up** meetings with each FA (VI/Phenology and ET already done)
- ❖ Up-to-date Web / list of products / key references
- ❖ Workshops or special sessions per variable (every 2-3 years)
- ❖ Plenary LPV meeting (every 1 or 2 years)

<https://lpvs.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

CEOS Working Group on Calibration and Validation

Land Product Validation Subgroup

HOME ABOUT DOCUMENTS PEOPLE LINKS

LPV Focus Areas

- Biophysical
- Fire/Burn Area
- Phenology
- Vegetation Index
- Land Cover
- Snow Cover
- Surface Radiation
- Soil Moisture
- LST and Emissivity
- Aboveground Biomass
- Evapotranspiration

LPV Supersites

LPV Meetings and Telecons

The mission of the CEOS Land Product Validation (LPV) subgroup is to coordinate the quantitative validation of satellite-derived products. The focus lies on standardized intercomparison and validation across products from different satellite, algorithms, and agency sources.

The sub-group consists of 12 Focus Areas, with 2 or 3 co-leads responsible for each land surface variable (essential climate and biodiversity variables).

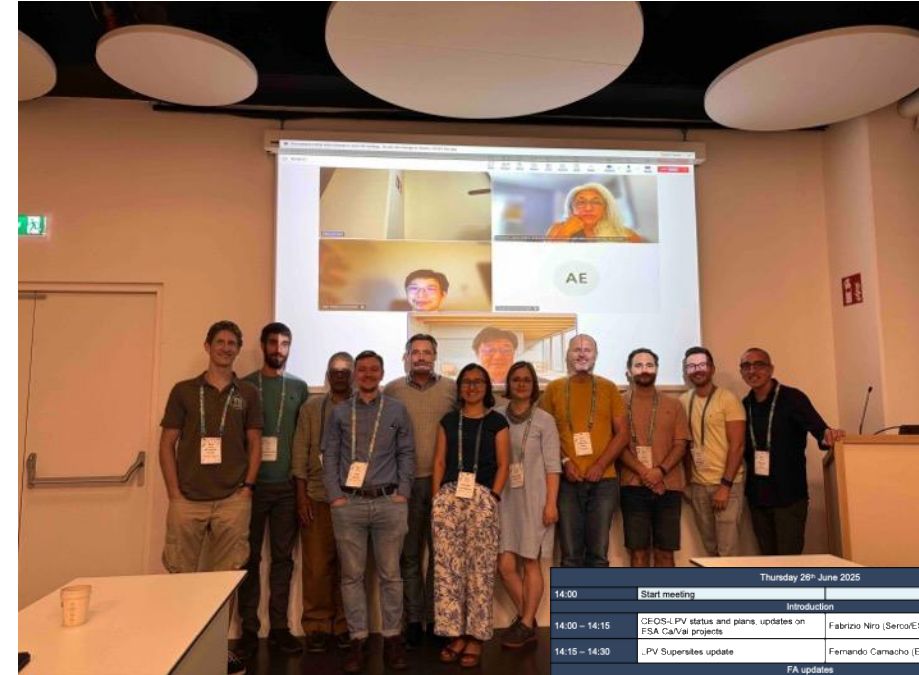
CEOS VALIDATION HIERARCHY

Validation Stages - Definition and Current State		Variable
0	No validation. Product accuracy has not been assessed. Product considered beta.	
1	Product accuracy is assessed from a small (typically < 30) set of locations and time periods by comparison with in situ or other suitable reference data.	Snow Fire Radiative Power
2	Product accuracy is estimated over a significant (typically > 30) set of locations and time periods by comparison with reference in situ or other suitable reference data. Spatial and temporal consistency of the product, and its consistency with similar products, has been evaluated over globally representative locations and time periods. Results are published in the peer-reviewed literature.	fAPAR Phenology Biomass

LPV Plenary 2025



- ❖ Half-day LPV plenary organised during the **LPS25** week
- ❖ **Reports** from all FA leads covering all variables
- ❖ Large number of input and **recommendations** gathered
- ❖ Basis for **LPV Action Plan** for the 2025-28 period
- ❖ Content in this presentation extracted from the plenary



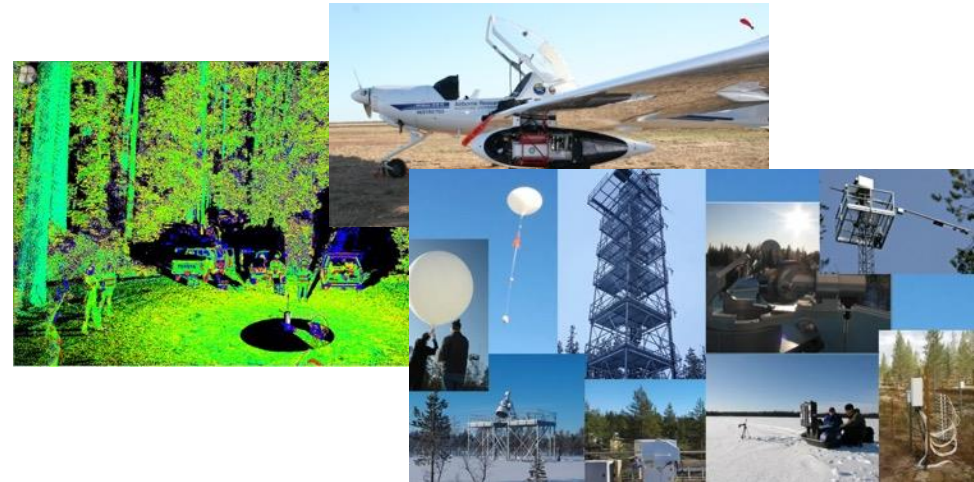
Thursday 28 th June 2025		
14:00	Start meeting	
Introduction		
14:00 – 14:15	CEOS-LPV status and plans, updates on FSA Ca/Vai projects	Fabrizio Niro (Serco/ESA), Jaime Nickeson (JSC/NASA)
14:15 – 14:30	LPV Superlat update	Fernando Camacho (EOLab) – In person
FA updates		
14:30 – 14:45	Land Cover	Sasha Tyukavina (UMD), Nandika Tsendbazar (WUR) – In person
14:45 – 15:00	Biophysical	Lika Brown (Salford University), Richard Fernandes (NRC) – In person
15:00 – 15:15	Fire	Bernardo Mota (NPI) – In person
15:15 – 15:30	Soil Moisture	Alexander Gruber (TUW) – In person
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 16:15	Snow Cover	Juha Lemmetyinen (FMI), Carrie Vuyovich (NASA) – Slides presented by FN
16:15 – 16:30	Above Ground Biomass	Kim Calders (U. Ghent), Neha Hunka (ESA/ESRIN) – Slides presented by FN
16:30 – 16:45	Land Surface Temperature	Luis Perez Planells (IMK) – In person
16:45 – 17:00	WPH/NPP	Alvaro Moreno (UV) – In person
17:00 – 17:15	Phenology	Victor Rodriguez Galiano (U. Seville) – In person
17:15 – 17:30	Surface Radiation	Jorge Sanchez Zapero (EOLab), Angela Erb (Leidos), Zhuosen Wang (NASA) – Remote
17:30 – 17:45	Evapotranspiration	Yur Yang (Cornell University) – Remote
17:45 – 18:00	Vegetation indices	Simon K'ratz (USDA), Tomoaki Miura (U. Hawaii) – Remote
18:00 – 18:15	Wrap up and Closing remarks	F. Niro, J. Nickeson
18:15	End of Meeting	

❖ In **2016**, LPV **supersites** (55) defined to address CEOS CV-12 action :

- Well characterised site canopy structure for **RTM-based** validation
- Useful for validating at least **3 ECVs**
- Long term **operations**, part of established networks (e.g., ICOS, NEON, TERN)
- Community-agreed **protocols**
- Ideally supported by airborne / Lidar

❖ Since 2016, landscape **evolved**:

- New sites/networks, new variables, advanced sensors (UAV), new missions



LPV Supersites update



❖ Review **definition**

- Expand variables: SR, **ET**, **GPP/NPP**, **SIF**
- For validation of at least **3 FA groups**
- Assess spatial **representativeness**
- Adherence (ideal) to **CEOS-FRM** concept
- Adding **UAV-LiDAR** as ideal component

❖ Sites selection (220+ candidate)





- Review ecosystem **networks** for recent protocol updates (e.g., ICOS fAPAR)
- Include **recent** networks /sites
- **Ranking:** ancillary data, priority to under-sampled biomes/regions
- List (**Q4 2025**) for WGCV endorsement



FA status report



Biophysical	Fires	Phenology	Vegetation Index
Land Cover	Snow	Surface Radiation	Soil Moisture
LST / LSE	Biomass	Evapotranspiration	GPP/NPP

	Protocol Ready
	Update on going / planned
	Draft ready
	Draft on going

- ❖ LAI 2014 protocol revision
 - More stringent **GCOS** requirements
 - Add new variable: **FCover**, **fAPAR**
 - High-resolution products (**<100 m**)
 - Focus on uncertainty (**FRM4VEG**)
 - Technological **advances** (automated sensors, UAV-based)
- ❖ Status of protocol update
 - **RSE paper** (draft) as initial step
 - First call to community gathering sent



9.8 ECV: Leaf Area Index

9.8.1 ECV Product: Leaf Area Index (LAI)

Name	Leaf Area Index (LAI)				
Definition	Leaf Area Index of a plant canopy or ecosystem is defined as one half of the total green leaf area per unit horizontal ground surface area and measures the area of leaf material present in the specified environment (projection to the underlying ground along the normal to the slope).				
Unit	m ² m ⁻²				
Note	Effective Leaf Area Index is the LAI value that would produce the same indirect ground measurement as that observed assuming foliage distribution (LAI _{eff} =LAI _{true} x canopy clumping index). The conversion of data measurements to true values is an essential step and requires additional information about the structure and architecture of the canopy, e.g. gap size distributions, at the appropriate spatial resolutions. Leaf Area Index controls important mass and energy exchange processes, such as radiation and rain interception, as well as photosynthesis and respiration, which couple vegetation to the climate system. Length of record: Threshold: 20 years; Target: >40 years.				
Requirements	Unit	Metric	[1]	Value	Notes
Horizontal Resolution	M	G	10		For (e.g.) climate adaptation and agricultural monitoring
					Best practices published here: http://www.q4ecv.eu/sites/default/files/D4.2.pdf
Vertical Resolution			T	100	For regional and global climate modeling
				-	N/A. In theory, a vegetation canopy can be stratified into various layers to describe its vertical structure in a discrete way. However
				-	actual methods of LAI observation, e.g. optical sensors, can only measure the total canopy leaf area index. Therefore, no value corresponds to the climate modeling, or Land Surface /

ents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Sensing of Environment

Value corresponds to the climate value a better phenology



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect
Remote Sensing of Environment

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/rse

Not just a pretty picture: Mapping Leaf Area Index at 10 m resolution using Sentinel-2

Richard Fernandes^{a,*}, Gang Hong^a, Luke A. Brown^b, Jadu Dash^c, Kate Harvey^a, Simha Kalimipalli^d, Camryn MacDougall^a, Courtney Meier^d, Harry Morris^d, Hemit Shah^a, Abhay Sharma^a, Lixin Sun^a

Fernandes et al. 2025

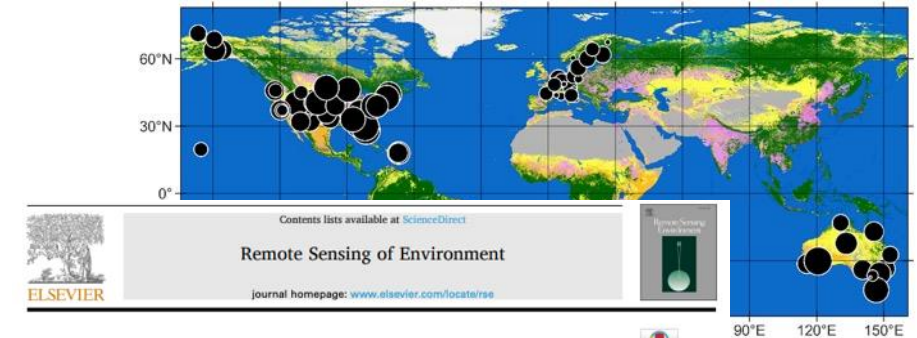


❖ **GROUND**ED EO database

- 81 NEON, ICOS & TERN sites (2013-2022)
- > 16,000 FRM (**LAI, FAPAR, FCOVER**)
- Provided at **ESU** scale (10 m to 100 m)
- **Uncertainties** following FRM4VEG
- Available on **Zenodo**, **Cal/Val portal**

❖ Recent **updates**

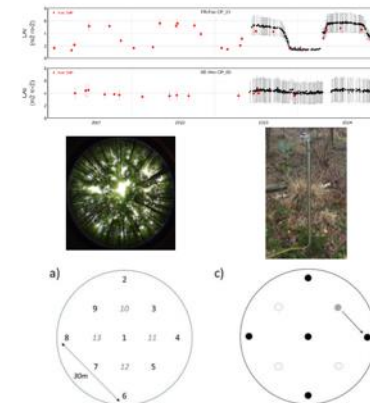
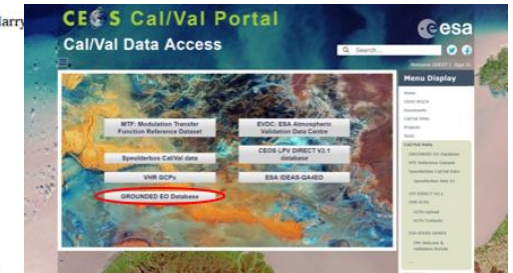
- **ICOS** LAI/fAPAR **protocols** being updated align to FRM4VEG and LPV protocols
- Tackling long standing action: **improving** use of ICOS for Cal/Val (NUBICOS EU)



GROUNDED EO: Data-driven Sentinel-2 LAI and FAPAR retrieval using Gaussian processes trained with extensive fiducial reference measurements

Luke A. Brown^{a,*}, Richard Fernandes^b, Jochem Verrelst^c, Harry Pablo Reyes-Muñoz^d, Dávid D.Kovács^e, Courtney Meier^f

Brown et al. 2025



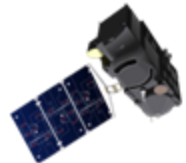
- ❖ Gaps / challenges (BA, AF, FRP)
 - Lack of community **protocols**
 - Focus on **higher resolution** (<100m)
 - Lack of **uncertainties** / traceability (BA)
 - Ephemerality of the phenomenon (**FRP**): challenges in **spatiotemporal** comparison
 - **Scarcity** of field campaigns data
- ❖ Yet, growing **interest**
 - Emerging **commercial** data providers
 - Relevance for **biodiversity** monitoring, climate adaptation and mitigation

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1	Product accuracy is assessed from a small (typically < 30) set of locations and time periods by comparison with in situ or other suitable reference data.	Snow Fire Radiative Power
2	Product accuracy is estimated over a significant (typically > 30) set of locations and time periods by comparison with reference in situ or other suitable reference data. Spatial and temporal consistency of the product, and its consistency with similar products, has been evaluated over globally representative locations and time periods. Results are published in the peer-reviewed literature.	JAPAR Phenology Biomass
3	Uncertainties in the product and its associated structure are well quantified over a significant (typically > 30) set of locations and time periods representing global conditions by comparison with reference in situ or other suitable reference data. Validation procedures follow community-agreed-upon good practices. Spatial and temporal consistency of the product, and its consistency with similar products, has been evaluated over globally representative locations and time periods. Results are published in the peer-reviewed literature.	LAI LST & Emissivity Active Fire Burned Area Vegetation Indices
4	Validation results for stage 3 are systematically updated when new product versions are released or as the interannual time series expands. When appropriate for the product, uncertainties in the product are quantified using fiducial reference measurements over a global network of sites and time periods (if available).	Land Cover Albedo Soil Moisture



9.4.1 ECV Product: Burned Area

Name	Burned area				
Definition	Burned area is described by a grid where each cell is labelled as burnt if the majority of that cell is classified as containing burned vegetation.				
Unit	m ²				
Note					
Requirements					
Item needed	Unit	Metric	[1]	Value	Derivation and References and Standards
Horizontal Resolution	m	Minimum mapping unit to which the BA product refers	G	10	10 m goal reflects the need to better map small and spatially fragmented burned areas that cannot be resolved at lower spatial resolution & reflects the spatial resolution provided by recent (Sentinel-2) and planned (Landsat Next) global coverage EO missions.
			B	100	Products based on higher resolution have shown higher sensitivity to small fires, even though coarse resolution RS products still miss most small fires (Chuvieco et al. 2022).
			T	1000	1000 m threshold reflects experience using heritage AVHRR LAC data. Burned area products can be aggregated to lower spatial resolution (e.g. 0.25 degree grid cells) for climate modeling applications. Most climate modelers work at coarse resolution grids, 0.25 d is the most common. A recent review of users of RS BA products show that most of them work at this level of detail (https://www.esa-fire-cci.org/sites/default/files/Fire_cci_D1.1_URD_v5.2.pdf , updated by Heil 2019). A review of users of BA products can be found in Mouillot et al. 2014 and Chuvieco et al. 2019.
Vertical Resolution			G	-	N/A
			B	-	
			T	-	
Temporal Resolution	d	Minimum temporal period to which the BA product refers	G	1	Mostly for atmospheric modelers. A questionnaire to atmospheric and carbon modelers done in 2011 suggested 1-2 days (https://www.esa-fire-cci.org/sites/default/files/Fire_cci_D1.1_URD_v5.2.pdf , but it was recently updated to 1 day or even 6 hours; Heil 2019).
			B	10	Based on a questionnaire to atmospheric and carbon modelers done in 2011: https://www.esa-fire-cci.org/sites/default/files/Fire_cci_D1.1_URD_v5.2.pdf , updated in Heil 2019
			T	30	Based on the same questionnaire as above

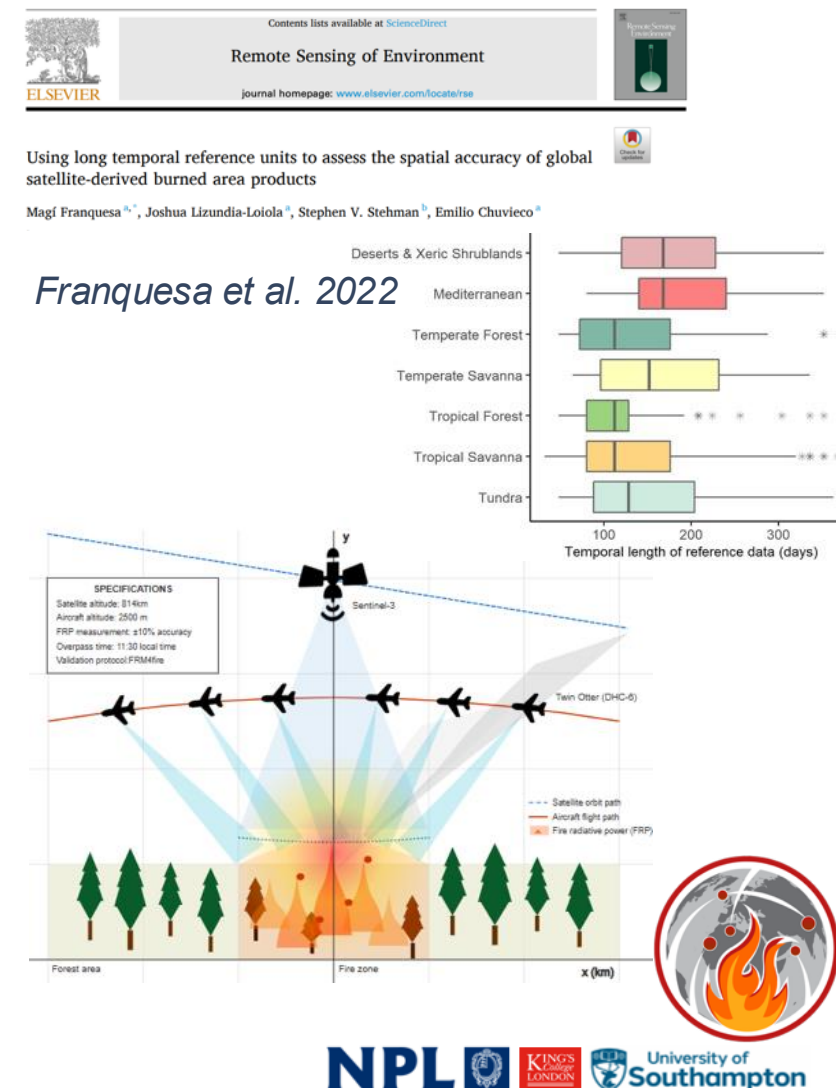


❖ BA

- **Draft** being prepared (Q4 2025)
- Still some **disagreement** for sample sizes, metrics and collocation criteria
- Final **discussion** at upcoming GOFC

❖ FRP

- Relying on **airborne** campaigns: limit to stage 2 (< 30 sites): review **LPV stage** ?
- FRP airborne Vs satellite **comparison** challenge: temporal and spatial scale
- **FRM4Fire** traceability chain/uncertainty for FRP → Protocol draft (2026)



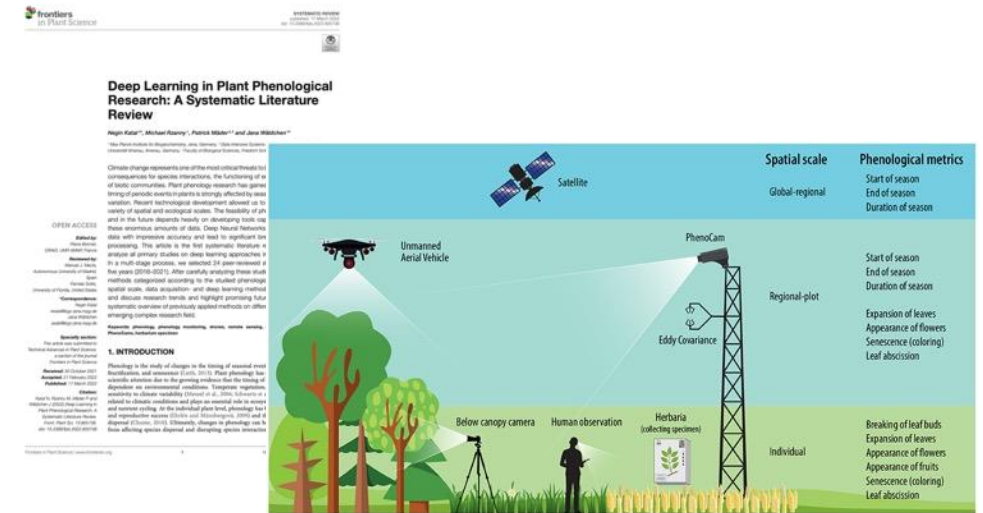
Phenology and VI



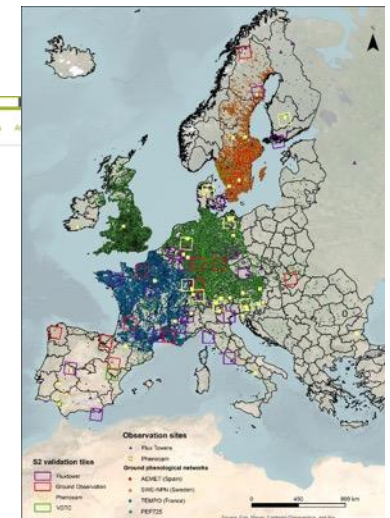
❖ LSP protocol being drafted

- Large **variety** of Cal/Val sources different spatiotemporal scale
- Emerging use of **UAV**: review paper being prepared
- Focus on **HR**, Copernicus HR-VPP Phenology products (10m)
- Ground-based networks (PhenoCam, national networks, Flux Towers)

❖ VI draft protocol under revision, Q4 2025 for release



Katal et al. 2022



❖ Status and Challenges

- Ever **increasing** number of HR maps
- Accuracy estimate not **comparable**
- HR not always more **spatial details**
- Accuracy vary per **continent**

❖ Way forward

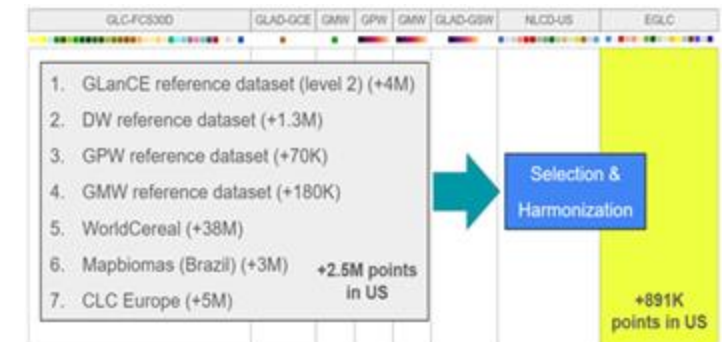
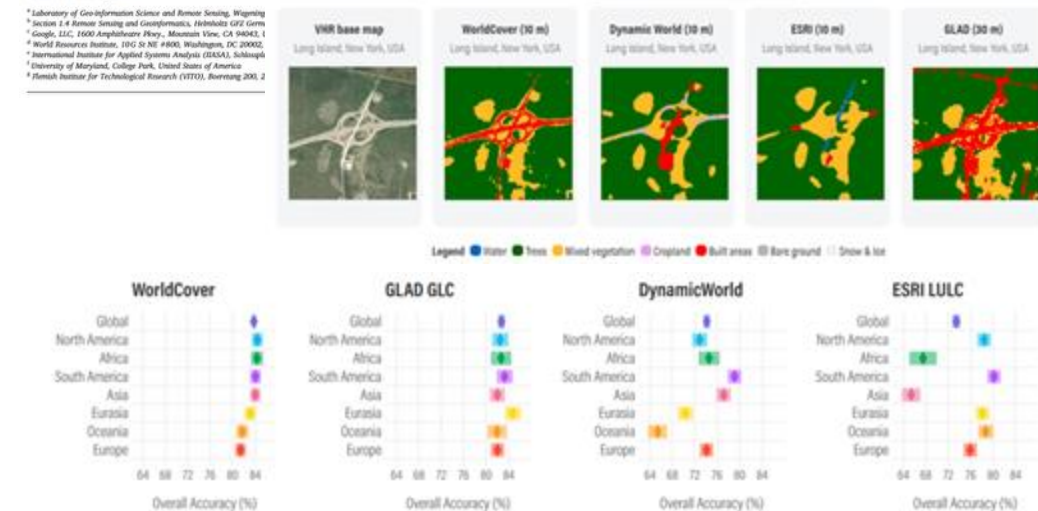
- Ensemble validation datasets to ease **comparability**
- Need **community protocol** for producers, users, and agencies



Comparative validation of recent 10 m-resolution global land cover maps

Panpan Xu^a, Nandin-Erdene Tsendbazar^{a,c}, Martin Herold^{a,b}, Sytze de Bruin^a, Myke Koopmans^a, Tanya Birch^a, Sarah Carter^a, Steffen Fritz^a, Myroslava Lesiv^a, Elise Mazur^a, Amy Pickens^a, Peter Potapov^a, Fred Stolle^a, Alexandra Tyukavina^a, Ruben Van De Kerchove^a, Daniele Zanaga^a

Xu et al. 2024



❖ LC Protocol

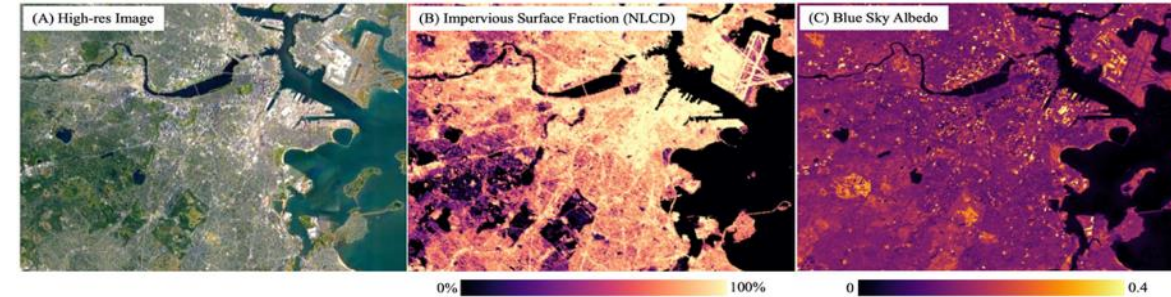
- **V0.1** comments from 12 reviewers: Europe (6), USA (4), China (1), Brazil (1)
- Overall feedback overwhelmingly **positive**, strong interest
- New sections on Definitions, **GCOS** requirements and **FRM** concept
- **V1.0** Q3 2025 for endorsement at WGCV and CEOS level
- **Reference** guidelines for current and upcoming new HR LC maps



Surface Radiation



- ❖ Emerging focus on **HR** data (<100m) for **urban** climate
- ❖ GCOS 2022 updates
 - **Higher** spatiotemporal resolution
 - Added **BRDF** parameters, **spectral** albedo (DHR, BHR)
- ❖ Status within LPV
 - Existing protocol / tool focus on **coarse** resolution broadband using tower-based + intercomparison
 - Need practices / reference for **BRDF** and **spectral albedo** validation

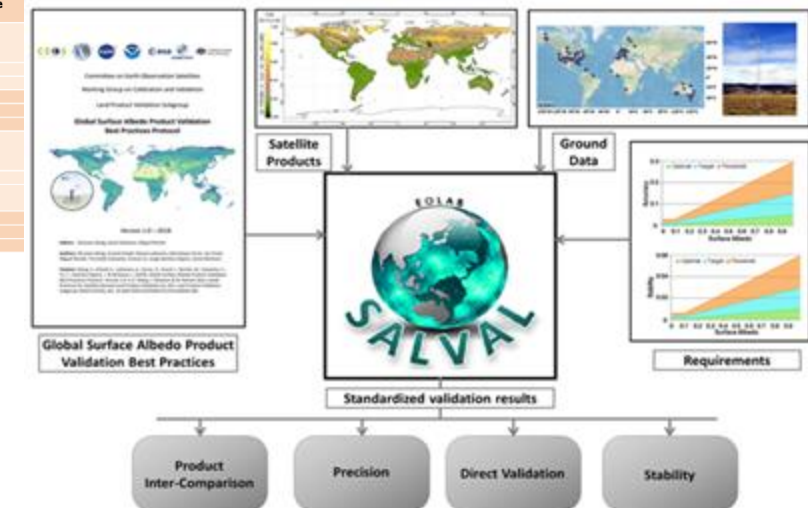


9.2 ECV: Albedo

9.2.1 ECV Product: Spectral and Broadband (Visible, Near Infrared and Shortwave) DHR & BHR^a with Associated Spectral Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF) Parameters

Name	Spectral and Broadband (visible, near Infrared and shortwave) DHR & BHR with Associated Spectral Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF) parameters (required to derive albedo from reflectance)			
Definition	The land surface albedo is the ratio of the radiant flux reflected from Earth's surface to the incident flux. Each spectral/broadband value depends on natural variations and is highly variable in space and time as a result of terrestrial properties changes, and with illumination conditions.			
Unit	Dimensionless			
Note	Length of record: Threshold: 20 years; Target: > 40 years			
Requirements				
Item needed	Unit	Metric	[1]	Value
Horizontal Resolution	m		G	10
			B	
			T	250
Vertical Resolution			G	-
			B	-
			T	-
Temporal Resolution	day		G	1
			B	
			T	10
Timeliness	day		G	1
			B	
			T	5

<https://eolab.es/salval/>



Surface Radiation



❖ Update of protocol:

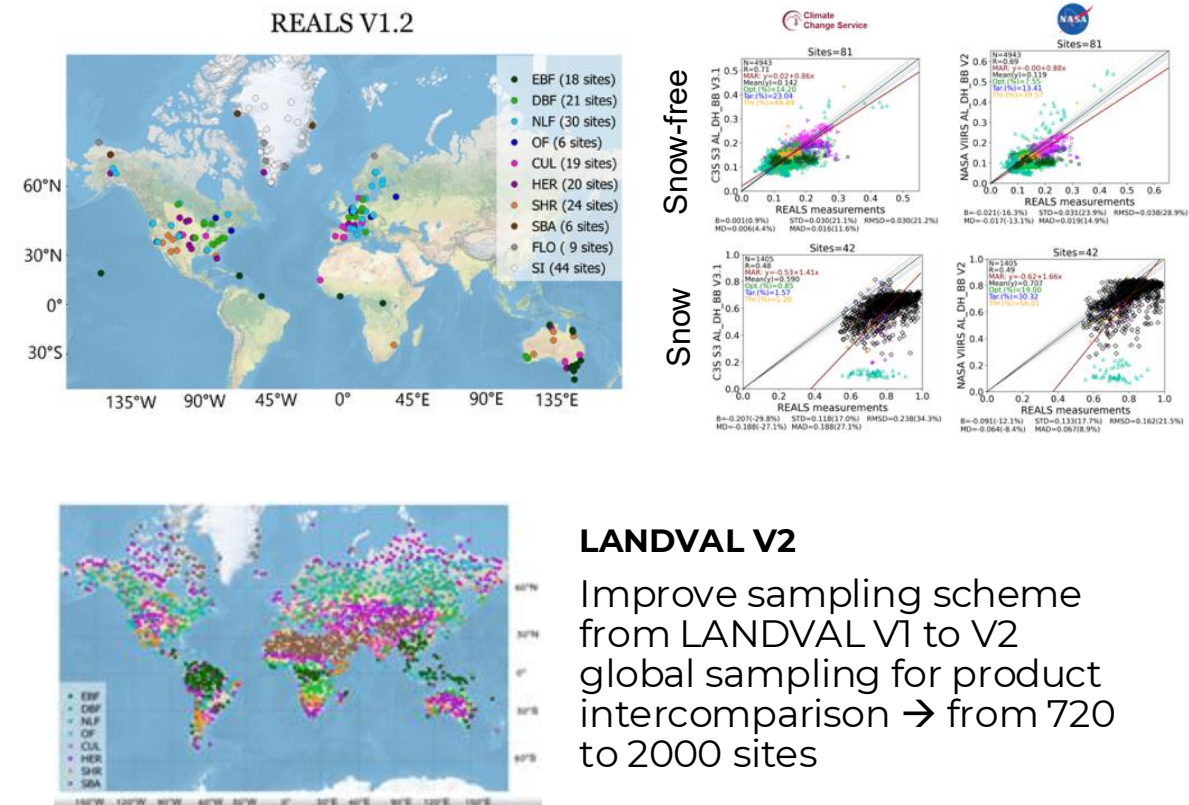
- Response to **GCOS updates**
- Best practices for **BRDF** and **spectral albedo** validation
- Finalize Global **Downward Radiation** Protocol (draft)

❖ SALVAL tool update

- Annual **maintenance**
- **Expand REALS** tower-based data from 99 to ~200 sites
- Improve **sampling** LANDVAL V2

Representativeness-Evaluated ALbedo Stations (REALS)

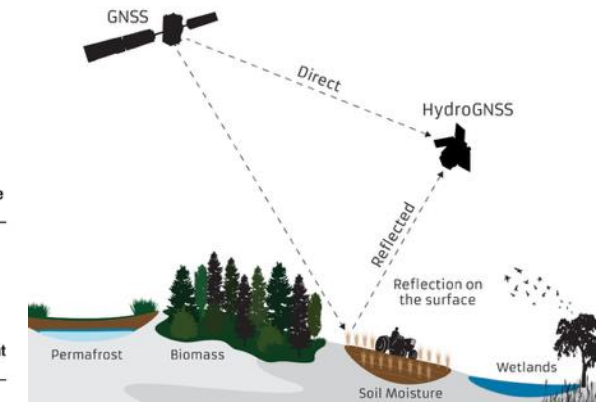
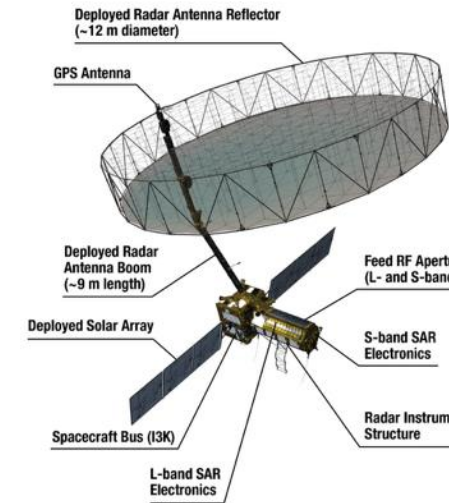
A unique high quality-controlled sub-set of **in situ measurements** selected from tower-based stations (e.g., FLUXNET, BSRN, SURFRAD) that meet the CEOS LPV validation protocol (including spatial representativeness). Recent inclusion of PROMICE **snow/ice** sites in Greenland.



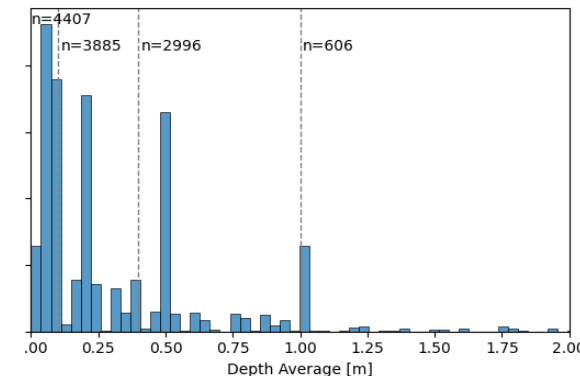
Soil Moisture



- ❖ Emerging focus on **HR** (<1km)
 - New technology (GNSS-R) and new missions (NISAR, CIMR)
 - Downscaling and ML approaches
- ❖ New interest for **root-zone** SM
 - Crucial for **agriculture**, drought monitoring, hydrology
 - Satellites provide surface SM need **models** for RZSM
 - Reference data (**ISMN**) vertical resolution ill defined



ISMN measuring depths

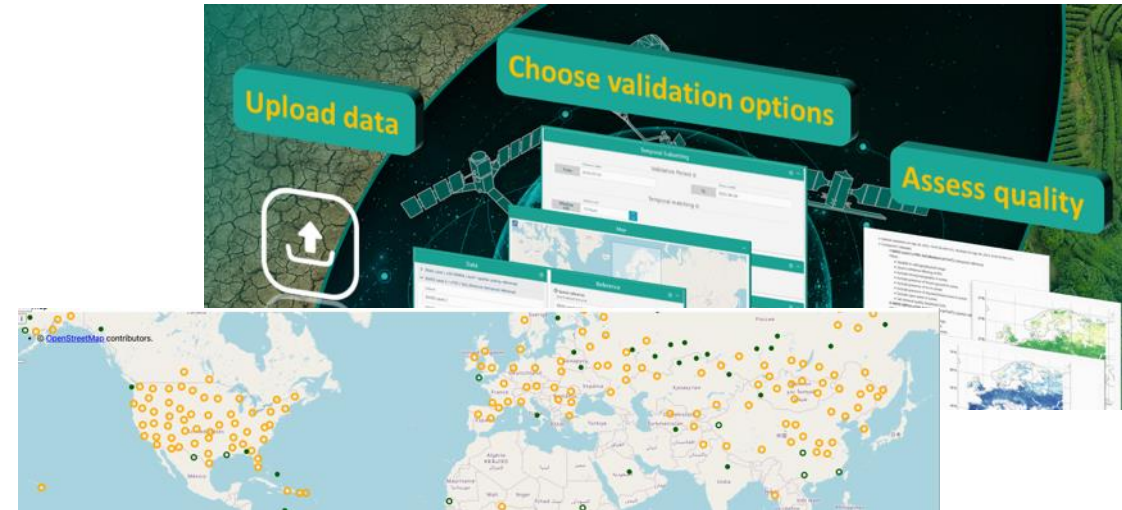


<https://ismn.earth/en/>



- ❖ Need to update protocols, reference data and tool:
 - **Maintain** and improve ISMN database and QA4SM tool
 - Address the need for **higher spatial resolution** products
 - Address the needs for **RZSM** validation
 - Assess adherence to **CEOS-FRM** as part of ESA **FRM4SM**
 - Aiming at first release in 2026

<https://qa4sm.eu/>



❖ Contribute to TIRCalNet

- Towards operational RadCalNet-like network for **TOA radiance** validation
- Cooperation ESA, CNES, JPL, Uni. Leicester, **KIT**, RAL
- Define instrument / algorithms, characterise **uncertainties**
- Radiometers installed at **La Crau** to perform initial testing
- **Emissivity** estimation remain primary source of uncertainty
- In-situ **comparison** of TIR radiometers (JPL and KIT) at lake Costance

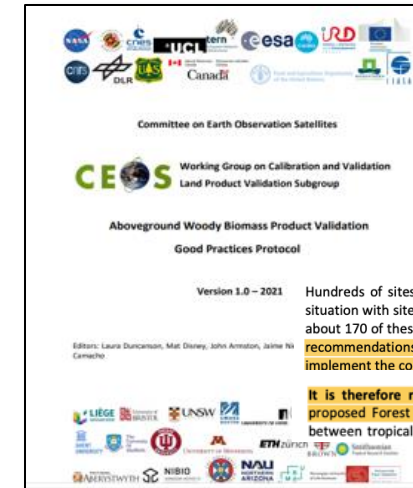


❖ **GEO-TREES**: a Global Forest Biomass Reference System

- Stems from recommendations from the **LPV AGB protocol**
- Global **coverage** with highest sampling in the critical carbon-rich tropics
- **Open data** policy and long-term commitment

❖ Long-term vision

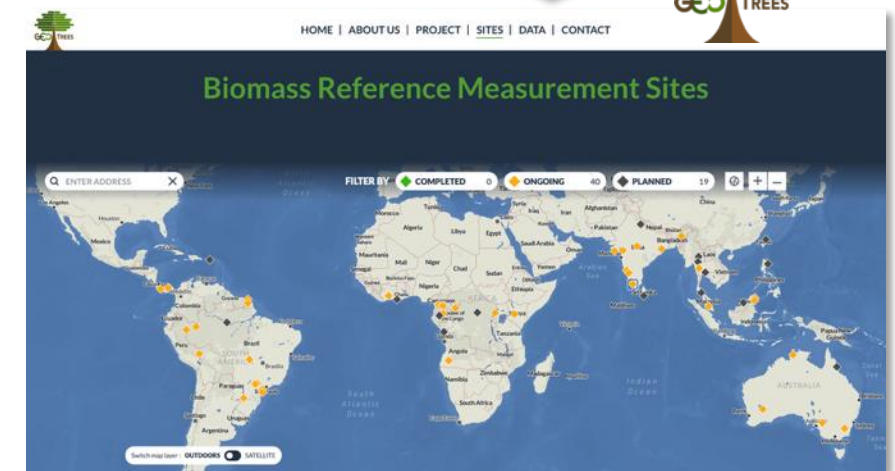
- 100 **core** sites (60 Tropical, 40 Temperate)
- 200 **supplementary**, lower-cost sites



Hundreds of sites are therefore desirable, but in practice, we have to start from the current situation with sites that already meet or come close to meeting our criteria. There are currently about 170 of these. **This suggests that at least 100 'high-intensity' BRM sites (following protocol recommendations including field, TLS and airborne lidar collection) are an achievable target to implement the core of the proposed long-term Forest Biomass Reference System.**

It is therefore recommended to include 210 additional, distributed BRM sites within the proposed Forest Biomass Reference System. This will allow for optimal filling of large gaps between tropical BRMs, and achieve an overall tripling of the tropical site sampling intensity

<https://geo-trees.org/>

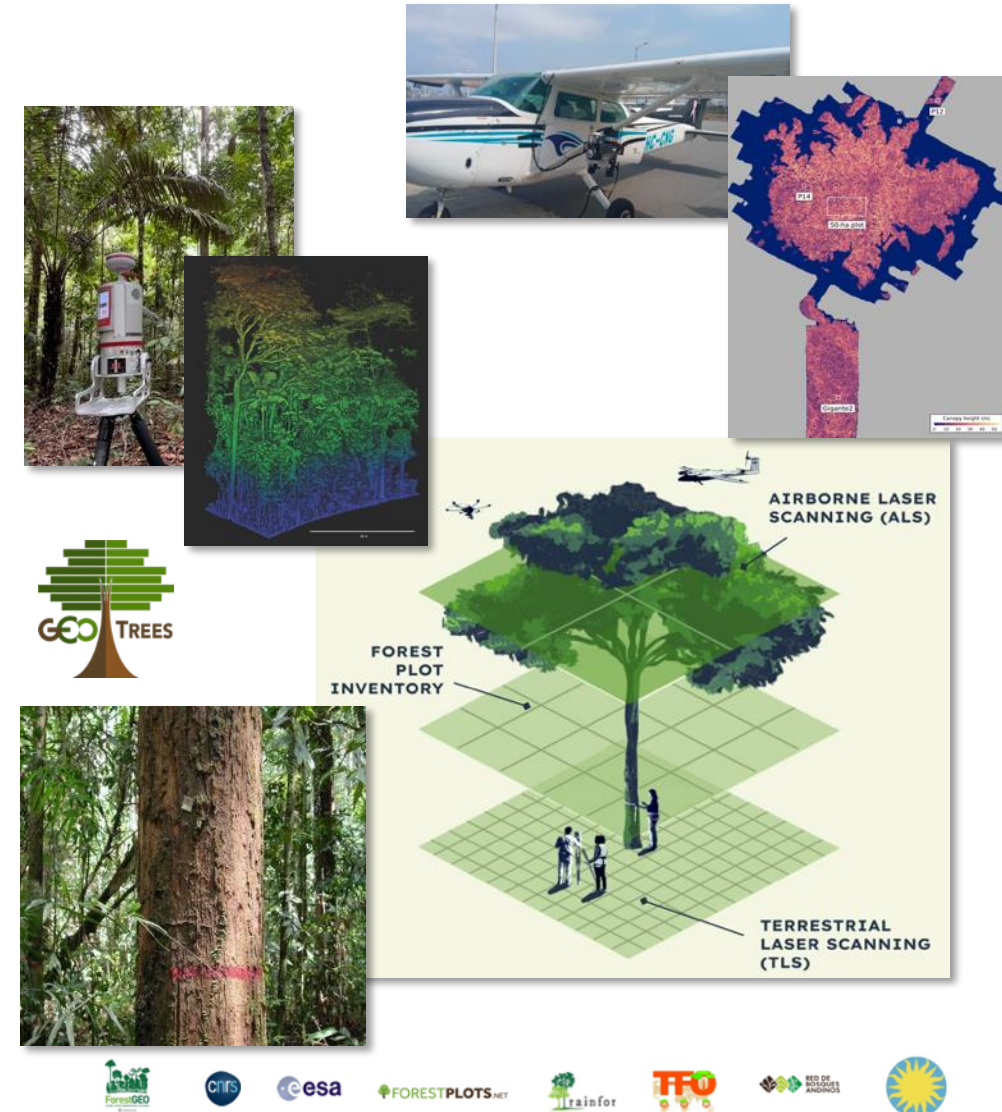


❖ **Multi-scale** approach

- High-quality AGB at **0.25 ha** plot scale with local **allometric** model
- Survey at **3 ha** scale using **TLS**
- **Airborne** Laser Scanning of canopy height covering **100+ ha** per site

❖ GEO-TREES looking **forward**

- Secure **resources** to reach the long-term vision of BRM sites (100 / 200)
- Build links **across disciplines** for forest, biodiversity monitoring



Evapotranspiration



❖ Status and challenges (New FA)

- Relevance for **applications**: agriculture, water management, ...
- Growing number of **ET products** (institutional / commercial)
- Large **variety** of models / input data (e.g., satellite, meteorological)
- GCOS **definition** slightly differs from ET used in RS community
- Need **consensus** on definition, models, validation practices



Evaporation from Land

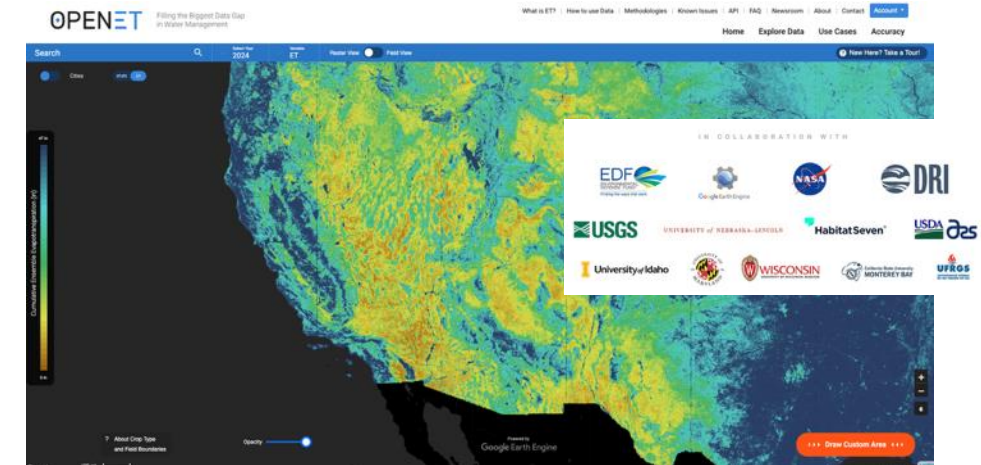


ECV Products and Requirements

These products and requirements reflect the Implementation Plan 2022 (GCOS-244).

Products		Sensible Heat Flux	Latent Heat Flux	Bare Soil Evaporation	Interception Loss	Transpiration
		Values	Values	Values	Values	Values
Horizontal Resolution	G (*)	1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
	B	-	1	1	1	1
	T	25	25	25	25	25
Vertical Resolution	G	-	-	-	-	-
	B	-	-	-	-	-
	T	-	-	-	-	-
Temporal Resolution	G h	1	1	1	1	1
	B	-	6	6	6	6
	T	24	24	24	24	24

<https://etdata.org/>

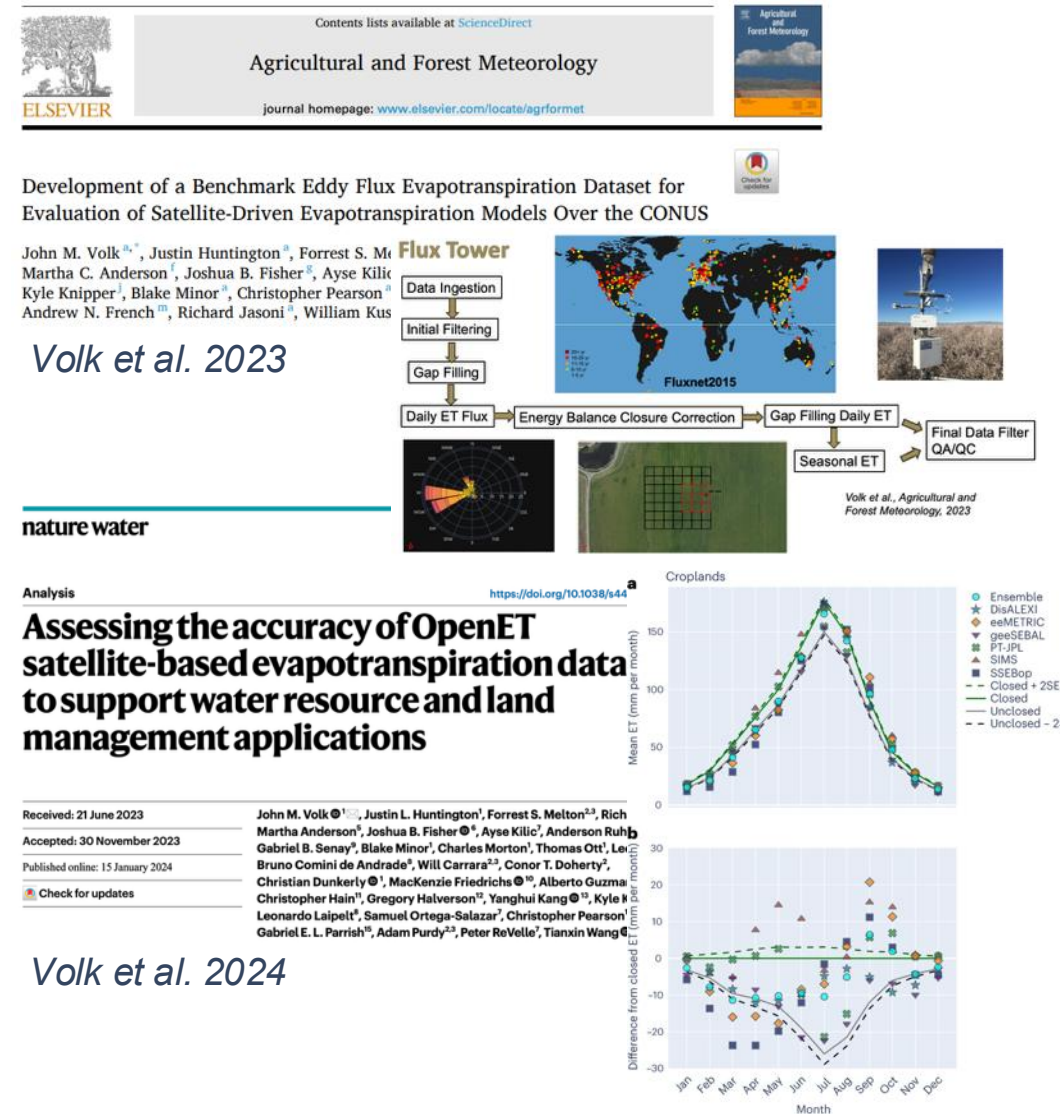


Evapotranspiration

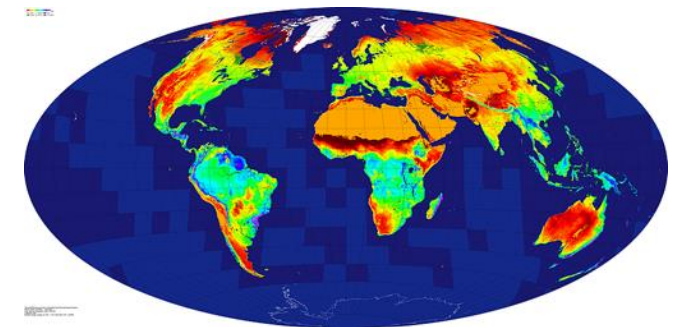
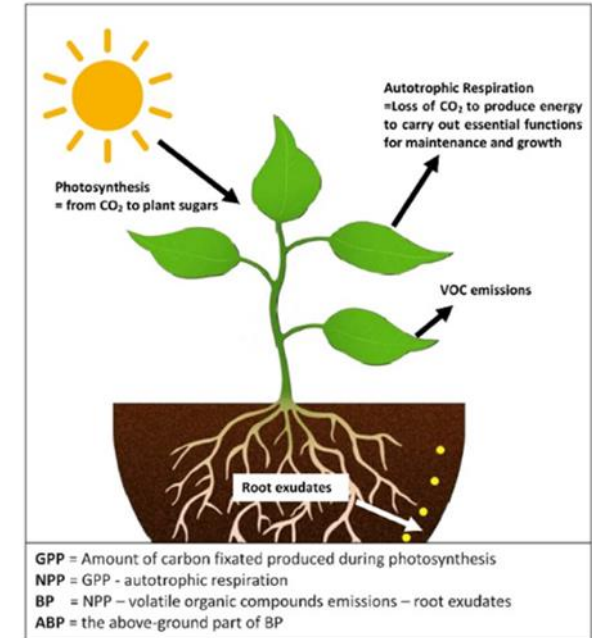


❖ Way forward

- Review existing **products**, group them: models, input data, coverage
- Review of existing Cal/Val **practices**
- Identify data and knowledge **gaps**
- Gather **community** in conferences / meeting (AGU24/ EGU25)
- Draft protocol **outline** (Q3 2025) and ask feedback
- Convene a **WS** by end of 2025



- ❖ Status and challenges (new FA)
 - Not yet ECV, though identified as part of **biodiversity** metrics
 - Growing **interest** and **availability** of GPP/NPP satellite products
 - **Variety** of models, inconsistencies across products
- ❖ Way forward
 - **Review** of existing models/products
 - Gather the **community** (FluxNET)
 - Propose protocol **outline**
 - Discuss in a dedicated WS



NASA Global VIIRS 500m GPP/NPP for terrestrial ecosystems

❖ Highlights

- LC protocol being issued: very positive feedback from community
- Review of LPV Supersites definition and list
- Updates of protocols on-going: Biophysical, Albedo, SM
- Strong interest in the upcoming ET and GPP/NPP protocol filling a well recognised data / knowledge gap

❖ Way forward

- Compile Action Plan for next 3 years
- Work towards filling long-standing gaps: OLIVE, ICOS for Cal/Val
- Enhance readiness to upcoming missions (hyperspectral)
- Strengthen collaboration with GEO-BON, GEO-TREES, GEO-GLAM

Thank You!