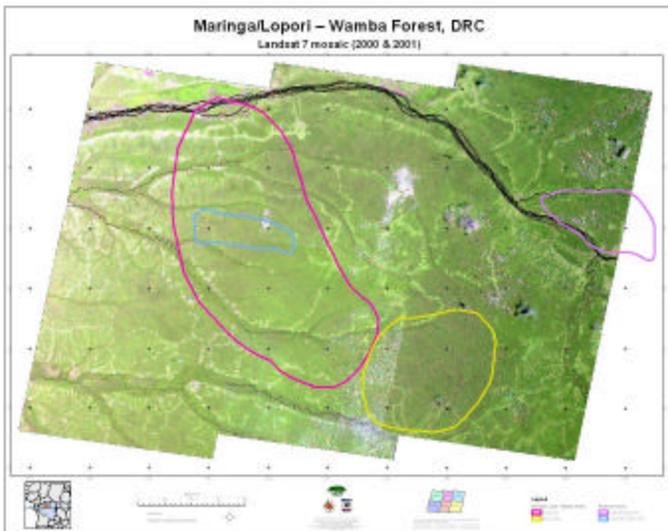


Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale

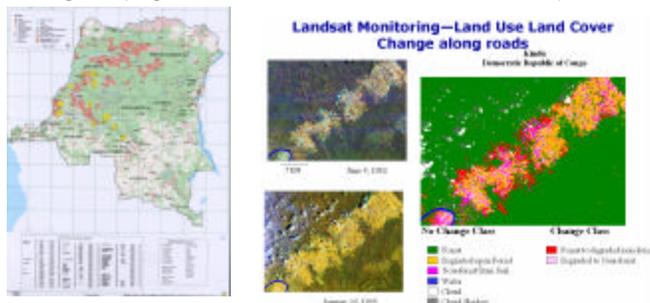


OSFAC—the “Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale” —is the Central African Network of the Global Observation for Forests and Land Cover Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD). GOFC-GOLD is a coordinated international effort working to provide ongoing space-based and in-situ observations of forests and other vegetation cover, for the sustainable management of terrestrial resources and to obtain an accurate, reliable, quantitative understanding of the terrestrial carbon budget. OSFAC is based in Kinshasa and is implemented in the region through its Points of Contacts: Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea.

The main objective of OSFAC is to improve the sustainable management of environmental resources in the Congo Basin through enhanced use and dissemination of remote sensing and other geo-spatial information. This objective is achieved through five interrelated activities:



The OSFAC website ensures the promotion and dissemination of the information it has collected. OSFAC houses the largest source of remote sensing and GIS datasets for Central Africa in Africa. These include raw datasets (+700 Landsat scenes, JERS) as well as derived products developed internationally by different groups in the region (e.g.: TREES, GLC2000, CARPE GIS).



- 1) Develop and maintain the OSFAC website as a means of disseminating environmental information
- 2) Develop a clearing house of environmental and forest resources in Central Africa to improve access to that information
- 3) Organize training sessions in the use of GIS and remote sensing for monitoring natural resources in Central Africa
- 4) Develop and maintain a stakeholder network of organizations and individuals interested in forest monitoring in the region
- 5) Create a directory and database of projects related to forest monitoring working in the region

Current membership of OSFAC is drawn from international, regional, and national institutions, universities, and the private sector. Membership is voluntary and open to all interested in monitoring forests in Central Africa. For more information on what data is available and on how to participate to the network, visit OSFAC website at <http://www.osfac.org>

