

**Proposed Spot Image presentation @ the 5th Symposium on Digital Earth
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**SATELLITE IMAGES: AN EXTENSIVE SUPPORT
TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESMENT**

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Abstract

The year 2006 marks a point of no-return in the evidence of global warming: the climate change case is now rationally made and pledge for action is gaining rapid momentum whether from the scientific, business or civil communities: an increasing number of administrations and organizations are eager to propose various ways of correcting the current trends, but what is of the utmost importance is to assess what is really happening on a global as well as local scale. As an example, foliage coverage, soil moisture, desert movements, ice shield changes or deforestation trends must be measured on regional as well as continental levels while local data and samplings must be collected. So that we understand what is measured, check how things are changing and continuously improve our ability to correlate facts and data.

Images from Earth observation satellites are the support par excellence for such an assessment. Under current international programs, there already are quite a large number of scientific projects that address global warming or environmental issues and that benefit from satellite images under privileged conditions. Faced with the importance and urgency of the subject matter, Spot Image and its partners have decided to engage in Planet Action, a significant initiative to support the various communities who tackle the climate change impacts. The objective of this initiative is to bring together and enhance cooperation between global and local programs on the one hand, scientific researches and civil projects on the other hand. The common ground between all is to help them get better results with the use of satellites images.

This presentation will expose how, in this initiative that spans over the next decade, Spot Image supports projects from the scientific as well as NGOs, academic or local communities. For instance, we will show how Spot Image will contribute through its twenty years archive and acquisition capacity to retrieve and collect the required data. In addition to accessing this unique resource, extensive experience and worldwide knowledge networks will be shared with local projects in order to contribute to assessing the changes on our planet.

As examples, programs currently assisted by Spot Image in Africa, South America and Asia will be showcased, as well as the methodologies and partnerships involved. We will explain how we work with NGOs and scientific partners to select, monitor and support these projects and how our local partners participate in this process. The focus will be put on the field perspective and the benefits of the satellite images to audiences that are not usual remote sensing users.

We will demonstrate how these resources are made available to remote communities via existing visualization platforms and knowledge base, as the whole initiative framework is supported by an open and freely accessible online knowledge base to be linked with existing climate change data bases.

Furthermore, an international call for projects will be launched on the occasion of this presentation during the Symposium.