



NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the U.S. Geological Survey's intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	USGS-18-FA-0036
Project Title	Research on Mapping Forest and Land Cover Change in Tropical Countries
Recipient	University of Maryland
Anticipated Federal Amount	\$99,900
Cost Share	N/A
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$300,000
New Award or Continuation?	New award
Anticipated Period of Performance	February 19, 2018 through February 18, 2020
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA # and Title	15.808 – Research and Data Collection
USGS Point of Contact	Sylvia Wilson, 703-648-4809

OVERVIEW

The University of Maryland (UMD) will work collaboratively with USGS and colleagues in governmental institutions in SilvaCarbon countries in three regions (SE Asia, Latin-America, and Central Africa) on enhancing land cover and forest monitoring in support of national monitoring systems. This work includes the development of land cover change maps followed by product derivation and iteration.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

UMD will use sample-based estimates to quantify land change dynamics for a set of land cover/use classes defined in collaboration with SilvaCarbon countries. UMD will create a data time series by mining the entire Landsat archive from 2000 to present and include temporal metrics used in

classification and change detection. UMD will develop land change indicators using their GLAD methodology. Accurate land cover disturbance maps will be generated by UMD for selected countries. UMD will install and test the methodology for participating countries in the three regions. UMD will work in collaboration with country partners to transfer processing methods to include radiometric corrections, quality assessment, time-integrated spectral feature derivation, characterization algorithms, integration strategies, product development and iteration, sampling schemes, and methods for validation.

USGS INVOLVEMENT

Substantial involvement on the part USGS is anticipated for the successful completion of the objectives to be funded by this award. In particular, USGS will be responsible for the following:

- Input and revision of the classification scheme;
- Revision of land cover disturbance maps;
- Development of algorithms for specific land cover classes and publishing methods in collaboration with UMD;
- Providing the link between SilvaCarbon countries and UMD; and
- Transfer of the methodology and results.

SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS
Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable for each single-source award. The justification must address one or more of the following criteria as well as discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.
In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria: (1) Unsolicited Proposal – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives; (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity presently being funded, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity; (3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress’ intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose;

- (4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, cost-sharing ability if applicable, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications;
- (5) Emergencies – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.
- (6) Cooperative Agreements - USGS Unique Authority cited at 43 U.S.C. 36d (Federal, State, and academic partners) or DOI Authority cited at 43 U.S.C. 1457b (not-for-profit organizations).

USGS did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

(4) Unique Qualifications

Single Source Justification Description:

This work includes the development of different land cover extent and change maps, including product derivation and iteration. The University of Maryland’s responsibility is to generate the metrics and assist the partners to implement their processing method in house. The maps have been developed by the University of Maryland; therefore, they have the expertise to transfer the capacity to the partners.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

USGS Unique Authority cited at 43 U.S.C. 36d (Federal, State and academic partners).