Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched a new initiative for Improvement of Forest Governance in June 2016. In this initiative, JICA and JAXA develop an early warning system for deforestation of tropical forest: JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics by using JAXA’s Advanced Land Observing Satellite (ALOS-2).

Features of this System

- **Point 1** ALOS-2 is able to transmit through the cloud;
- **Point 2** The system monitors tropical forests every 1.5 months basis for 61 countries with 50m resolution;
- **Point 3** The system allows free access from PCs and mobile devices from anywhere in the world.


**Forest can change the world** - Initiative for Improvement of Forest Governance will contribute to global tropical forest and biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation by using Japan’s advanced satellite technology and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The endangered Pied Tamarin (*Saguinus bicolor*) (Brazil)

The Initiative for Forest Governance is conducted by a partnership between JICA and JAXA, and supporting private corporations and any other organizations are expected to join the initiative to contribute to the conservation of the world’s tropical forests.
The Utilization of ALOS images impressively supported the project to identify deforestation and illegal logging by using the ALOS images in Brazil. ALOS is suitable to detect deforestation and illegal logging of tropical forests. The project contributed to detect more than 1,000 deforestation and 150 illegal logging cases respectively from 2010 to 2011. The extent of forest decline in 2014 was 500,000 hectares, which was about 80% less than the 2004 level.

Target Countries under the System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
<td>Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, EL Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Costa Rica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Namibia, Republic of South Africa, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Solomon, India</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities

- Development of the JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics (JJ-FAST);
- Human resources trainings for related personnel (approximately 500 trainees by 2020);
- Diffusion of successful forest conservation knowledge and skills;
- Holding international conferences/seminars to promote the initiative.

Achievements of the Brazilian Amazon Forest and Combat against Illegal Deforestation Project (2009-2012)

The Utilization of ALOS images impressively supported the project to identify deforestation and illegal logging by using the ALOS images in Brazil. ALOS is suitable to detect deforestation and illegal logging of tropical forests. The project contributed to detect more than 1,000 deforestation and 150 illegal logging cases respectively from 2010 to 2011. The extent of forest decline in 2014 was 500,000 hectares, which was about 80% less than the 2004 level.