

Satellite Applications in Land surface analyses Group for Eastern Europe (SALGEE)

Terms of Reference

Purpose

To gather experts in the field of satellite meteorology to complement the activities of the EUMETSAT Land Surface Analysis Satellite Application Facility (LSA SAF) in order to progress the use of satellite Land Surface Analysis techniques in Eastern Europe and other regions of interest where their application might be beneficial.

The **Satellite Applications in Land surface analyses Group for Eastern Europe (SALGEE)** will foster an integrated meteorological and climatological approach for research and operational activities related to the quantification of biogeophysical and biochemical cycles and related land surface processes, in combination with information from in situ data, model output and satellite observations.

Objectives of the SALGEE

1. To promote EUMETSAT Satellite (MSG and EPS) data and products related to: land, land-atmosphere interaction and biospheric applications, resulting in increased benefits from their use.
2. To facilitate the use of LSA SAF products and the development of appropriate tools for visualization and digital processing of LSA SAF products by countries in targeted user regions.
3. To validate satellite LSA SAF products in targeted user regions.

Activities

1. Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information between leading scientists and experts at an international level on the use of satellite land surface analysis techniques in operational meteorology and climatology.
2. Assist the LSA SAF in communicating with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) on the use of satellite data and products for the purpose of land surface analysis.
3. Fostering the use of satellite data in conjunction with other available information (e.g. NWP and Land Surface Model output, ground measurements, etc.) for the analysis and forecasting of land surface/biosphere processes and land-atmosphere interactions.
4. Support the implementation of EUMETSAT SAF Strategy (EUM/C/67/09/DOC/44, 9 June 2009) related to climate monitoring and applications and the use of satellite products for Terrestrial-Essential Climate Variables (T-ECV).
5. Support the validation of EUMETSAT and Land SAF products for drought assessment, forest fire detection and the impact of post fire effects on climate.

6. Initiate and support cooperation between NMHSs and National Civil Protection and Forest Management Authorities leading to the more effective use of satellite land surface data and products for drought monitoring and the early detection of fires.
7. Develop training materials to support the use of new land surface analysis methods and operationally generated geophysical products, and their application in operational meteorology and climatology.
8. Assist EUMETSAT in responding to the needs of NMHSs in Eastern Europe and other target user regions for access to satellite data and training.
9. Maintain a close cooperation with the LSA SAF Consortium Members, NOAA/NESDIS and NASA/University of Maryland.
10. Organise biennial international workshops to review and discuss progress in using satellite products for land surface applications.
11. Organise annual “on-site” meetings of the Steering Group, preferably during the Annual EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference and/or the LSA SAF Workshop in order to plan activities and report on progress.
12. Establish mechanisms whereby scientists and the user community can provide feedback to product developers at EUMETSAT and LSA SAF.

Composition

1. The activities of the SALGEE will be managed by a Steering Group comprising two Co-Chairs, one from EUMETSAT, the other from the LSA SAF Consortium.
2. A secretary will be appointed to support the day-to-day business of the SALGEE and he/she will also be a member of the Steering Group, acting as Minute Writer of Steering Group Meetings.
3. The SALGEE will have as Members representatives of: EUMETSAT, the LSA SAF Consortium, NMHSs in Eastern Europe, NOAA and NASA. Representatives of countries from other regions of interest (e.g. Africa) could be invited to participate as agreed by the Steering Group. There is no formal commitment by being a member of the SALGEE.
4. The SALGEE shall maintain a web site for the efficient exchange of information and the provision of documentation. This web site will be maintained by the Secretary of the SALGEE.