

THE BELAIR PROJECT



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THE STEREO III PROGRAMME

- Support to the Exploitation and Research in Earth Observation
- Belgian **remote sensing research** programme
- Duration: 2014-2021
- Budget: ± 28 M€

THEMATIC PRIORITIES

- *Both global and local*
- Terrestrial and aquatic environments
- Interaction between (change in) land cover and climate change
- Epidemiology and humanitarian aid
- Security and risk management

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

RESEARCH

***RESEARCH
SUPPORT***

- **BELAIR site**
- Toolbox
- Sensor support

***RESEARCH
DESSIMINATION***

***EDUCATION
AND
PROMOTION***

eo.belspo.be
eoedu.belspo.be

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE: RESEARCH SUPPORT

- Activities beneficial to the entire Belgian RS community
 - by encouraging collaboration or
 - by making data and software accessible
- Key activities: STEREO Toolbox and **BELAIR site**

THE BELAIR PROJECT

AIM

- Systematic collection of in situ and RS (airborne and satellite) data over a Belgian multi-site for:
 - Joint innovative thematic research to strengthen research capabilities (algorithm development, thematic validation, etc.)
 - PhD and MSc theses
 - Calibration and validation of RS missions and products

CONCEPT

- Belair only finances data collection
- Research to be carried out in framework of ongoing (STEREO) projects or MSC/ PhD theses

THE BELAIR PROJECT (cont'd)

DATA:

- Unique data sharing between Belgian researchers via dedicated portal site
- Data available for all (Belgian/international) after restricted period

FIRST STAGE:

- Thus far: campaign in 2013 and 2015
- Bottom-up approach (researchers propose sites and research activities)
- 19 teams
- 2015 budget: 320 k€

BELAIR 2015 - Sites

- **Hesbania**: crops and soil
- **Litora**: coast and biodiversity
- **Sonia**: urban and forestry



BELAIR 2015 - Partners

- **BELAIR promotors:** in situ-measurements and research
 - Coordinators
 - HESBANIA: Stéphanie Delalieux
 - LITORA: Liesbeth De Keukelaere
 - SONIA: Boud Verbeiren
- **BELSPO:** overall management and acquisition of RS data (Pléiades, Deimos, ..)
- **VITO:** acquisition and processing of airborne data and hosting portal site (<http://belair.vgt.vito.be>)

OUTCOME BELAIR 2013 CAMPAIGN

- Lot of field work done
- Unique sharing of data and equipment between Belgian researchers
- Part cal/val underdeveloped
- Not always enough synergy between activities teams sharing a subsite
- Data not always fully used (due to lack of additional funding)
- Cumbersome administrative and financial project management

TODAY'S AGENDA

- This morning
 - Presentation of results of the 2015 BELAIR campaign
- This afternoon
 - For BELSPO, promoters and experts: discussion and evaluation
 - For BELSPO and experts: recommendation about a next phase
 - For other participants: site visit

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

EVALUATION OF PAST ACTIVITIES

- do the Belgian sites have what it takes to be a proper site for cal/val and joint research? What is missing?
- do the protocols used for in situ measurements guarantee sufficient quality for cal/val purposes
- do we acquire the right data (in situ, airborne and satellite) for cal/val and research purposes and with the right frequency?
- is a proper joint research going on?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION (cont'd)

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- do we have to maintain the double focus (cal/val vs. joint research)?
- what should be the thematic focus for a next phase? (agriculture, biodiversity, water, ...) (quid marine?)
- should all sites be maintained?
- should other sites be integrated?

OUTREACH

- are the BELAIR data interesting for future satellite missions?
- how can the promotion strategy (international sensor developers, uptake by scientists and projects) be improved?

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

