

## **Earth Observation and Development Banks – view from a service provider perspective on recent developments**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Multilateral development banks (MDBs) as well as some international financial institutions work usually in developing countries, whereby a regular assessment of the environmental and social impact of their activities is a necessary condition for receiving and maintaining the financing for their operations. In the recent years, Earth Observation products and services became here an increasingly important and valuable source of information for various assessment tasks. Collaboration programmes, such as the eoworld initiative from the European Space Agency (ESA) with the World Bank Group, have been launched in order to demonstrate the value of Earth Observation-based products to such institutions for the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international development projects.

Demonstrating with globally distributed project examples in developing countries, the paper describes own working experience of more than twenty years within this domain of Earth Observation and development aid/technical assistance. In particular, attention is given on the product reception and acceptance by the involved MDBs, on benefits and achievements related to the integration of Earth Observation and on feedback for further improvement of the applied services. Being directly involved in recent collaboration programmes with MDBs, the paper concludes with a multifaceted view from a service provider perspective on these programmes.