

to the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. In turn, natural hazards forced by global warming pose a growing threat of long-term and even permanent damage to the environment and the biodiversity on which all societies depend.

Both the IOC and FOC capability of the Open Skies regime are insufficient to characterize the state of the vegetated surfaces or to document the seasonal and inter-annual land cover change. However, the SAR and the thermal IRLS instruments potentially give the regime a theoretical capability to identify and monitor areas, specifically areas having to do with water and soils, where the most drastic changes take place. The Open Skies panchromatic photography could provide data for land use mapping and land use change detection. That data could also be used for the monitoring of infrastructure development.