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Through the IPCC and other governmental bodies, Professor Valentini is also involved in developing policies on the global carbon cycle and the role of land use changes and forestry. He is the coordinator of several European Union projects, including the EU project CARBOAFRICA, many of which are targeted at understanding and quantifying the terrestrial carbon budget and greenhouse gas emissions. He is Director of the Impacts Division of the Euromediterranean Center on Climate Change. He is a member of the Biogeoscience Committee of the European Research Council.

Professor Valentini was former Chairman of the Global Terrestrial Observation System Program and former coordinator of EU projects CLIMAFRICA and GEOCARBON.

Professor Valentini is a Doctor Honoris Causa Faculté Universitaire des Sciences Agronomiques de Gembloux, Belgium.