**GOFC-GOLD overview**

- GOFC-GOLD (Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics) is a coordinated international effort to ensure a continuous program of space-based and on-the-ground forest and land cover observations for global monitoring of terrestrial resources and the study of global change.
- A network of participants implementing coordinated research, demonstration and operational projects
- A vision to share data, information and knowledge, leading to informed action and decision support
- A long-term process of building an improved match between Observations, Data Products and User Needs

**Functions and Structure of GOFC-GOLD**

1. Specifying requirements for products
2. Assessing algorithms and data assimilation procedures
3. Ensuring the availability of observations
4. Harmonization and the development of protocols and standards
5. Ensuring that operational products meet accuracy requirements
6. Capacity building and the role of regional networks
7. Creating GOFC-GOLD products and services
8. Providing information to support international assessments
9. Advocacy role, especially in relation to the continuity of observations and validation

**Examples of GOFC-GOLD Fire contributory projects**

- Prototype Early Warning System for Wildland Fire in Africa
- MODIS Rapid Response, Web Fire Mapper and customized services

**Examples of GOFC-GOLD Land Cover contributory projects**

- Integrated Global Observations for Land (IGOL)
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

**The Role of Regional Networks**

- Providing the interface between the panel and national level data users and needs

**Examples of GOFC-GOLD Regional Network contributory projects**

- OSFAC - Central Africa Network
- NERIN - Northern Eurasia
- NEESPI - Northern Eurasia Earth Science Partnership Initiative

**Fire Mapping and Monitoring Implementation Team Priorities**

- Fire danger rating development
- Near real time daily active fire monitoring
- Geostationary global fire network
- Planning fire monitoring on next generation polar orbiters
- Multi-source fire information integration
- Burned area monitoring
- Systematic product validation
- Near real-time fire emissions modeling
- Web based Distribution Systems
- New technologies: Sensor Web, Fire Characterization
- Outreach to management and policy making communities

**Land Cover Implementation Team Priorities**

The Land Cover Characteristics and Change theme promotes the use and refinement of land cover data and information products for resource managers, policy makers, and scientists studying the global carbon cycle and biodiversity loss.

GOFC-GOLD has proposed a program of coarse resolution earth observations, fine-scale land cover mapping, and integration with in-situ observations on global scales.

The Land Cover theme is carried out by an implementation team that works with the GOFC-GOLD regional networks to secure acquisition of quality land cover data and interacts with users and regional experts for the development and implementation of mapping standards, data assimilation, and product dissemination.

**Land Cover Characterization and Change**

- Building a sustained global land cover observing system requires international agreement and cooperation on:
  - (a) the continuity of global observations;
  - (b) the consistency in mapping and monitoring specifications and land cover assessment approaches;
  - (c) sustained engagement and participation in mapping activities, regional networking and capacity building.