GEO Community of Practice for Forest Observations

User Interface Committee Meeting
1-3 August 2007, Washington

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Forest observations and GEO

- Forests are a key terrestrial ecosystem and habitat
- GEOSS reference plan:
  - land cover and forests are important for all areas of societal benefit
  - terrestrial observation domain least developed
- Forests and the environmental conventions:
  - carbon and water cycle
  - response to climate change
  - continued deforestation and forest degradation
  - biodiversity
Justification

• Combining remote and in situ observations is under utilised
• Lack of co-ordinated long term observation plans
• Earth observation challenges:
  ➢ varying user requirements
  ➢ observation continuity (satellite, in situ)
  ➢ move from research to operations
  ➢ harmonization of forest information
  ➢ data access issues (regional/national data sets, in situ)
  ➢ capacity building and outreach
Objectives

1. Create a community of practice with broad representation of producers and users of forest data and information
2. Advise the User Interface Committee, other CoPs and GEO on matters relating to forest observations and related societal benefits, and on cross-cutting issues of interest
3. Provide GEO with information about organisations and networks that could help carry out forest observation related GEO tasks
4. Identify, gather, and seek agreement on user community requirements for forest observations, their present status and gaps to be filled
5. Support the forest observation community with information about activities and plans in the GEO process
Forest Observation User Communities

Membership determined by range of uses for forest observations and information

(1) Global Change Science
(2) Timber, Fuel and Fiber
(3) Watershed Protection
(4) Biodiversity and Conservation
(5) FCCC and other Environmental Agreements
(6) Recreation and Tourism
(7) Sustainable Forest Management
(8) Forest Perturbations and Protection (fire, insects, disease)
Work to Date

- Initial focus of FCoP:
  - Integrating in-situ and space-based forest observations
  - Involvement in planning process for upcoming global forest assessment (FRA 2010)
Identify direct requirements for forest observations in GEO 2007/09 work plan tasks by eight communities of users:

- 24 tasks identified with need for forest observations
- Tasks in all SBAs
- Tasks linked to all user communities:
  - Global Change Science – 10 tasks
  - Timber, Fuel and Fiber – 4 tasks
  - Watershed Protection - 2 tasks
  - Biodiversity and Conservation - 8 tasks
  - FCCC and other Environmental Agreements - 5 tasks
  - Recreation and Tourism - 1 task
  - Sustainable Forest Management - 3 tasks
  - Forest Perturbations and Protection (fire, insects, disease) - 10 tasks
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Task #</th>
<th>Task Short Title</th>
<th>Global Change Science</th>
<th>Timber, Fuel and Filter</th>
<th>Watershed Protection</th>
<th>Biodiversity and Conservation</th>
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Work to Date

Identify and contact key forest organizations for involvement:

- UN Org (FAO Forestry Program, Forest Resource Assessment)
- National Forest Inventory (ENFIN, NAFC)
- Conventions
- Regional (EC gmes)
- NGOs
Work to Date

GEO III Plenary:
• Booth for FCP
• Provide information on FCP, poster, handout
• Interact with GEO members
Ongoing work of Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics:

- GTOS/GOFC-GOLD – strategy reviews
- Activities of Regional Networks
  - Progress in Africa, Latin America, East Asia
- Activities of Implementation Teams:
  - GEO land and fire tasks (forest assessment, fire early warning)
  - IGOL (IGOS-P land theme)
  - Conventions (standards, REDD)
Needs from UIC

- Point of contact among co-chairs
  - Communications and reporting
  - Advice and guidance
- Status of AG tasks
- GEO UIC protocols
  - Process to create interface with users
- Feedback, lessons learned
  - Other CoPs
Thank you - Questions?

Point of contact:
Michael Brady, Canadian Forest Service
(mbrady@nrcan.gc.ca)
Work to Date

- Following existing community of practice guidance materials and experiences
- Recruit CoP co-leads, establish work routine
- Address forest observations for societal benefits in:
  - **AGRICULTURE:** forestry and resources
  - **DISASTERS:** loss due to forest fires
  - **CLIMATE:** deforestation and carbon cycle
  - **ECOSYSTEMS:** services and functioning
  - **BIODIVERSITY:** conservation of habitats
  - **CAPACITY BUILDING:** local - global communities
  - ... others ...
- Link to GEO 2007/09 work plan targets
Work to Date

• Preliminary identification of user needs:
  - consistency and continuity of observations
  - Accessible and low/no cost
  - user involvement: from observations to applications
  - Adapting to emerging approaches and technologies
  - integrating in-situ and local to global scale information

• Initial focus of FCoP:
  - integrating in-situ and space based forest observations
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