GOFC/GOLD: 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.
- Activities of the land cover program include:
  - Availability of observations
    - Landsat and IRS - MODIS - SAR (ALOS) - GLAS - High Res
  - Harmonization, interoperability and synergy
    - LCCS (Land Cover Classification System)
    - The equivalent for Land Use or change does not exist
  - Validation
    - “Best Practies” effort for Land Cover (joint CEOS Cal/Val)
    - The equivalent does not exist for change
  - Adequacy and advocacy of products
    - Geo Land Cover Products
  - Regional networks and capacity building
  - Shared data, information and knowledge
  - Land change assessment

Data Management Task DA-07-02

Task Number	Global Land Cover
DA-07-02	**Provide a suite of global land cover datasets, initially based on improved and validated moderate resolution land cover maps and eventually including land-cover change at high resolution.**
Area	
Data Management	
Relevant Committee	
UIC	

Main objective is to initiate regular analysis and reporting on land cover change and promulgate the use of these products, especially in developing countries.

Formulate specifications and implement production of a global high-resolution land cover and land change data set and report

Complete a global high resolution land cover map at a minimum of every 5 years, beginning with mid decade (2005) and moving forward and backward in time as the archive of historical satellite imagery permits:

Complete a global high resolution land cover change map, initially every five years and eventually on an annual basis

Common Themes in Case Studies

- Importance of field data - issues of linking field data to remote sensing data
- Many kinds of remote sensing sensors can contribute to REDD
- Consistency in products and methods will improve credibility of estimates of GHG emissions reductions
- Validation is important - need to characterize uncertainty
- Biomass mapping remains a challenge
- Capacity building is essential and should be integrated into the process
- Land cover is easier than land use (from remote sensing)
- Degradation is important, yet poorly defined or characterized
- Maybe one size doesn’t fit all with respect to sensors or methods (conditions can be quite different between places)