

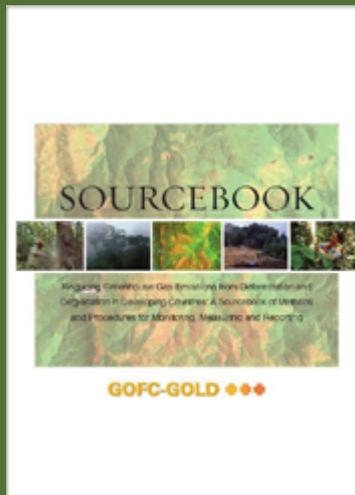
Newsletter N° 21 | March 14

LAND COVER AND CHANGE

Newsletter of the GOFC-GOLD Land Cover Project Office

New version of the REDD Sourcebook

In November 2011 the GOFC-GOLD REDD working group released the new REDD sourcebook. The Sourcebook is available for download on the Land Cover Project Office homepage.



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GOFC-GOLD Land Cover Office operational

The GOFC-GOLD Land Cover (LC) Project Office (PO) is operational again since February 1st 2012 with Dr. Brice Mora appointed as the new Project Officer. The GOFC-GOLD PO is now located at Wageningen, Netherlands where Dr. Martin Herold officiates since 2010 as a Professor and as the co-Chair of the GOFC-GOLD LC implementation team. The GOFC-GOLD PO will continue and expand its dedicated work to manage and coordinate the execution of the GOFC-GOLD LC implementation plan, including communication and cooperation within the team and key actors and users in global land cover monitoring, including:

- Ensuring continuity and consistency of observations,

- Promoting harmonization, interoperability and synergy of land cover products,
- Developing validation standards and supporting their implementation, including making validation data sets and resources available,
- Improving adequacy and advocacy of land information products,
- Engaging regional networks and support capacity building,
- Sharing data, information, and knowledge.

Short term tasks and changes

1. With the installation of the GOFC-GOLD LC PO at Wageningen University Research (WUR), the migration of the GOFC-GOLD website from the University of Jena to WUR is on-go-

ing. We have taken this opportunity for updating the content and renewing the layout. The website can be now reached at : www.gofcgold.wur.nl.

2. Next GOFC-GOLD LC meeting at ESA-ESRIN in Frascati (April 23-27) The GOFC-GOLD LC PO is currently organizing the next GOFC-GOLD LC workshop that will be organized parallel to the Sentinel-2 Preparatory Symposium (<http://www.s2symposium.org/>) in Frascati on April 23-27. For this upcoming meeting, proposed agenda items include:

- GOFC-GOLD and GEO/GFOI
- Land cover as Essential Climate Variables (ECV)
- Global land cover validation activities

- Global Landsat-type observations working group
- REDD Sourcebook
- Biomass WG

3. The design and the implementation of an information system (IS) enabling the storage and the distribution of reference maps for the validation of land cover products is one priority task of the GOFC-GOLD LC PO. Work on this task has already started and the IS is expected to be fully operational by the end of the year, while reference data is being processed and made available for referencing in the IS.

GOFC-GOLD land cover workshop in Boston 9-12 January 2012

A GOFC-GOLD LC Implementation Team workshop was held at Boston University (BU). Prof. Curtis Woodcock and BU colleagues hosted this 4-day meeting that focused on global land cover validation activities, initiating the global moderate resolution processing working group, and developing guidance/recommendations on the specifications for the land cover Essential Climate Variables (ECV). Feedback from the global land cover validation map production team led to the refinement of the sample stratification. The reference data interpretation process will be streamlined

and be updated to report on the evolution of land cover classes considered in the validation products. Furthermore, the REDD Sourcebook will be updated regarding recommended practices suggested for accuracy assessment of area change. Several sections of the document will be concerned by the update.

Sentinel-2 Preparatory Symposium in Frascati, April 23-27

The European Space Agency is organising the first Sentinel-2 Preparatory Symposium, which will be hosted in ESA-ESRIN, Frascati, Italy. The main objectives of the Symposium are the presentation of the mission, bridge the gap between Science and Services, and provide fora to ESA PI's and scientists. The symposium will focus on the following themes: agriculture, forestry, land cover, cartography, and other applications. For more information on the Symposium, please visit the official website.



3rd GOFC-GOLD Data Initiative Session with Advanced Training

The 3rd session of the GOFC-GOLD Data Initiative will be conducted from April 30 to May 25, 2012 in partnership with USGS, NASA, START, and Boston University. This session of the Data Initiative will further the goal of building capacity among researchers and resource managers in developing countries. The 2012 training program will have two components:

1. Two week training session at the

USGS EROS Data Center at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, led by Dr. Thomas Loveland. Participants will focus on accessing and compiling regional and country-level data sets on land cover and fire observations.

2. Advanced training session at Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, led by Dr. Curtis Woodcock. Participants will take an intensive course on the applications of Satellite Remote Sensing data to moni-

toring forest and land cover change.

Culture-MERIS

The European Space Agency (ESA) has initiated a free and open NRT service providing global weekly surface reflectance composites coming from MERIS FRS 300m acquisitions. The project is named Culture-MERIS and targets land activities for agriculture and food security user communities. Every Tuesday the Culture-MERIS system, which is based on the GlobCover processing chain, provides the weekly products of the previous week. The latency depends also on the auxiliary data availability,

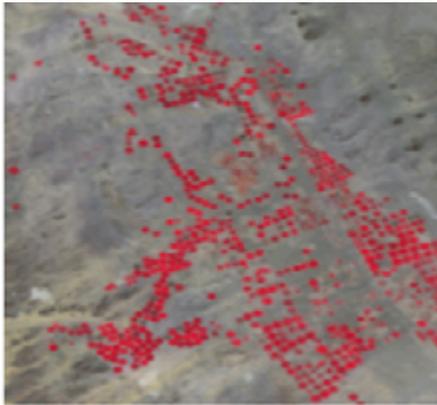


Fig 1. Pseudo-color (RGB=14-7-5) weekly composite of 7th-13th March 2011. Crops with centre-pivot irrigation systems (Tabuk, S.Arabia)

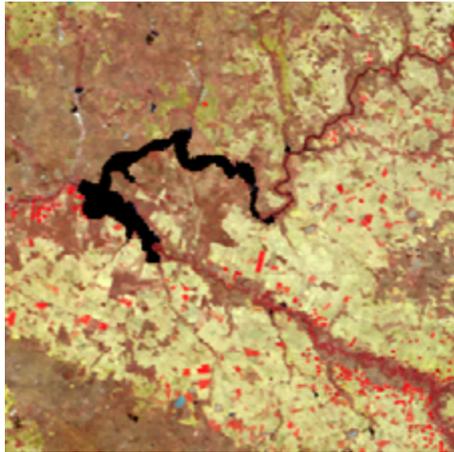


Fig 2. Pseudo-color (RGB=14-7-5) MERIS FR composite over Bloemhof Dam area (S.Africa), 1st week of November 2011.

but it is continuously improved and stabilised. During the first trial period, which started on March 2011, the project provided data for Europe and Africa, while after September 2011 the coverage was expanded to the whole world, depending of course on acquisition and cloud coverage. Culture-MERIS products are freely provided in HDF format in 5° x 5° tiles, through a simple web interface, which links to an FTP storage. There the user can find a list

of folders, each of which represents a specific week and is populated continuously. Four MERIS bands (namely 3, 5, 7, 14, corresponding to 'blue', 'green', 'red', 'NIR') and the NDVI are included in the product.

For more information:

1. ESA Culture-MERIS website
2. Arino et al. 2012
3. or email your questions to: due@esa.int

GEO Forest Carbon Tracking task activities

The GEO Secretariat co-organized an event entitled "The forest and Carbon initiatives of the Group on Earth Observations" parallel to the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) organized in December 2011 in Durban, South Africa. It was an opportunity to present the Global Carbon Observation and Analysis System, the Forest Carbon Tracking (FCT) Task and its operational evolution, and the Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI). After the presentation of the GEO initiatives, a report was done on the progress of the tasks with an emphasis on

satellite data acquisition coordination, data processing tools and methodologies, and the lessons learned (Fig. 3).

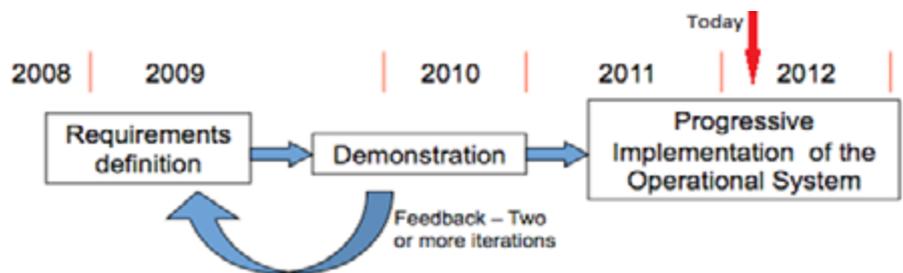


Fig. 3. Timeline for GEO FCT task activities

Regional Network activities

The next South-Eastern Europe Regional Information Network (SEERIN) workshop will be held in Sofia on April 17. The objectives of the meeting include 1) the review of the availability of satellite data, products, and approaches for land cover monitoring in South Eastern Europe (SEE); 2) the formulation of regional/national issues and objectives to be addressed by SEERIN and identify the associated participants; 3) the identification of the requirements for

land-cover and land-use characterization that address the needs of the SEE community of researchers and users; and 4) outlining the objectives, sessions and participants of a 3-day capacity building workshop to be organized by SEERIN within the following year. More information on the SEERIN can be found on this page.

Calendar of upcoming events for year 2012

Event	Date	Venue	Contact
IGBP conference	26-29 March	/	TBD
SEERIN formulation workshop	17 April	Sofia, Bulgaria	Petya Entcheva Campbell
European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2012 – GMES session	22-27 April	Vienna, Austria	Michael Berger
Sentinel-2 Preparatory Symposium	23-27 April	Frascati, Italy	http://www.s2symposium.org/
GOFC-GOLD LC side meeting at Sentinel-2 preparatory workshop	23-27 April	Frascati, Italy	Martin Herold, Brice Mora
Data Initiative and advanced training	30 April-25 May	Sioux Falls / Boston, USA	Thomas Loveland, Curtis Woodcock
UNFCCC SBSTA session	14-25 May	Bonn, Germany	TBD
Miombo workshop	TBA Spring	Maputo, Mozambique	Olga Krankina
Volga workshop	17-22 June	Yoshkar-Ola, Russia	Olga Krankina
Workshop on Baikal (Capacity building for young scientists)	1-9 July	TBD	Garik Gutman
39th COSPAR Scientific Assembly	14-22 July	Mysore, India	http://www.cospar-assembly.org/
Biomass Working Group session at IGARSS	23-27 July	Munich, Germany	Christiane Schmillius

Table 1 (continued): Upcoming events

Event	Date	Venue	Contact
32nd International Geographical Congress	26-30 August	Cologne, Germany	https://igc2012.org/
SEARRIN workshop	Summer/ Fall	Bangkok, Thailand	Chris Justice, Olga Krankina
CARIN workshop	Fall	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	Olga Krankina
ForestSAT 2012	11-14 September	Corvallis, USA	http://www.forestsat2012.com/
Silvilaser Conference	16-19 September	Vancouver, Canada	http://silvilaser2012.com/
GlobBiomass User Consultation meeting <i>Jointly with</i> LandCover-CCI progress meeting	October	Jena, Germany	
LCLUC Science Team meeting with South Asia RN meeting	October	TBD, India	Chris Justice

Table 1: Upcoming events

Acknowledgements

The GOF-C-GOLD LC PO wish to thank Olga Krankina, Petya Campbell and Antoaneta Yotova for providing information on the RN activities, Joanne Nightingale for the information on the outcome of the GOF-C-GOLD/LPV land cover meeting organized in Vienna last year, and Vasileios Kalogirou for the information on the Culture MERIS initiative. We thank the contributors to the GEO Newsletter # 17 which some information was extracted from. We thank the ESA for providing information on the Sentinel-2 Preparatory Symposium and pictures for illustration.

The ESA GOFC GOLD Land Cover Project Office Newsletter: The Newsletter is distributed free of charge to all members listed in the ESA Land Cover Project Office database. To update your information, to subscribe or to be removed from our database, please contact us or visit the newsletter website:

<http://www.gofcgold.wur.nl/sites/letter.php>

If you have any suggestions or recommendations for future contributions to this newsletter please feel free to contact us.



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