

## Joint GOFc-GOLD / FAO Workshop on Harmonization of Global Land Cover Products

**DATE:** 14-16 July 2004

**VENUE:** FAO, Rome, Italy

### OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

There is a growing need for detailed and accurate information about land cover and land cover change on all geographic scales. Based on a variety of maps and international mapping efforts, a variety of regional and global land cover products have been derived (IGBP DisCover, MODIS land cover product, GLC 2000, CLC1990 and 2000 etc.) and are available to the scientific and user community. However, there is no common language between and among these different maps and their thematic legends. This undoubtedly hinders their application, in particular for analysis of changes, and complicates coordinated efforts in their validation.

In that context, during the 2nd GOFc-GOLD Land Cover Implementation Team (LC-IT) meeting in Jena, Germany in March 2004, GOFc-GOLD, ESA, and GTOS with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have agreed to foster the harmonization and validation of global land cover products. The action plan of the Jena-meeting identifies the need for an additional workshop on this issue. The ESA Land Cover Project Office and FAO are jointly hosting this workshop at the FAO in Rome, Italy, 14th until 16th July 2004.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

Based on the accomplishments of the Jena-meeting, the workshop will focus on the following objectives:

- Review of accomplishments and future prospects of the GOFc-GOLD LC-IT and the ESA Land Cover Project Office
- Development of the implementation strategy for harmonization of regional and global land cover products:
  - Apply the FAO Land Cover Classification System (LCCS-2) as common language and translator
  - Testbeds and harmonization case studies
  - Issues of scaling: local versus global harmonization
- Harmonization as part of global land cover validation efforts
- Update on progress of the GLOBCOVER project

### PARTICIPANTS

The workshop will bring together key participants essential for a successful implementation of harmonization efforts. Participants include GOFc-GOLD LC-IT members, representatives from FAO and GTOS, ESA, CEOS, IGBP and UNEP are being invited to help connect and coordinate the LC-IT activities with the larger programmatic and research framework.