

The GEO Forest Carbon Tracking (FCT) Task



The need

- Support for a comprehensive and systematic global network of national forest monitoring systems is needed *inter alia* to underpin MRV for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) – forest monitoring systems will depend on both time series consistent (interoperable) satellite observations and integrated ground measurements and satellite observations



The GEO FCT Task

- GEO FCT :
 - a framework for coordination: governments, space and forest agencies, research scientists, intergovernmental and international organisations, and early adopter countries
 - national demonstrators showing the elements and operations of a global system of systems
 - develop institutional arrangements for secure data access and continuity
 - initiate and promote the methods and protocols for comparability, interoperability in observations and integration with ground measurements
 - prepare a Concept Plan for a global network of national systems



GEO FCT timelines

- 2009
 - source data and establish a data portal
 - test satellite sensor interoperability
 - set up national demonstrators
 - initiate methods and protocol documents
- 2010
 - repeat coverage for national demonstrators
 - test and refine methods and protocols
 - prepare the Concept Plan



The GEO FCT country assistance

- GEO FCT can support countries establishing national systems for forest carbon tracking by:
 - access to long-term satellite, airborne and in situ data, and the associated analysis and prediction tools
 - creating the framework and technical approaches for a global network of national systems
 - following the guidelines for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)



The Concept Plan

- A draft Concept Plan has been prepared by a broadly based Planning Group:
 - the Concept Plan will be presented to the 2010 GEO Plenary after consultation
 - the Concept Plan does not address implementation issues that are to be considered in the next (intermediate) phase



Timetable for the Concept Plan

- FCT task announced at the GEO V Plenary in 2008
- Consideration of operational role announced at GEO VI 2009
- Interim Working Group convened and reported Feb 2010
- Planning Group and Editorial Sub-group formed in Mar 2010
- Editorial Sub-group met Mar 2010
- Draft Concept Plan provided to the Planning Group Apr 2010
- Draft Concept Plan for circulation to GEO Principals 3rd week May 2010
- GEO Principals information session, Geneva, Jun 1, 2010
- Planning Group meeting to finalise Concept plan, Rome Jul 13-14, 2010
- Concept Plan presented to GEO VII Plenary, Beijing, Nov 2010



Concept Plan Outline

- *Introduction* – defining need
- *Background to GEO work* – describes the FCT to data
- *Objectives*
- *Basic principles* – guiding development of an implementation plan
- *Operating context* – GEO role and essential partners
- *Key components* – main elements
- *Financing* – the financial environment (markets etc)
- *Concept phase conclusions* – summary of key issues
- *Intermediate phase* – briefly describes next steps
- *Recommendations* – decisions put to GEO Plenary



The 2010 Plenary

GEO-VII Plenary is invited to:

- note the significant progress made in the expanded GEO FCT task during 2010;
- approve the proposal for the continuation of the work into the Intermediate Phase, with a further more detailed proposal - to be submitted to GEO Plenary in the last quarter of 2011; and
- agree to reference to this work being included in the Declaration for the Ministerial Meeting in November, 2010.



Beyond the Concept Plan

- The 2010 Plenary will consider the Concept Plan and be asked to support a next 'intermediate' phase to develop an Implementation Plan
- The Implementation Plan would focus on:
 - defining the needed forest information products
 - clarifying the role for GEOSS and its relationships with governments and other organisations
 - describing the institutional and organisational structures required to support GEOSS forest monitoring
 - the technical architecture
 - R&D activities.



Further Work on the Concept Plan

- Better define:
 - priorities and scope of outputs
 - existing institutions and their roles and responsibilities
 - the ‘added value’ role for GEO/GEOSS
 - the distinction between global and national responsibilities
 - the phasing of FCT activity and key decision points
 - the ongoing role for R&D
 - the possible technical and institutional architecture, and the role to be played by GEO/GEOSS



Implementation Plan Working Structure

