

Global Terrestrial Observing System INFORMATION NOTE

Recent developments from the Global Terrestrial Observing System, 16 October 2001

New Chairman of the GTOS Steering Committee

I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Robert Scholes has been endorsed by the GTOS sponsors (FAO, ICSU, UNEP, UNESCO, WMO) to serve as Chairman of the GTOS Steering Committee. He replaces Dr. James Gosz who served in the position since March 1998. Dr. Scholes, a national of South Africa, is an ecologist who is employed by CSIR Division of Water, Environment and Forest Technology. He is involved in a number of international science initiatives and has been a convening leading author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry.

A brief biography on Dr. Scholes can be seen on the GTOS web-site at: <http://www.fao.org/gtos/orgsteercom.html>.

While welcoming Dr. Scholes to the GTOS programme, we would also like to acknowledge the contribution that Dr. Gosz made during his three years of service as chair. We will continue to rely on his experience and benefit from his advice.

Sincerely,
Jeff Tschirley
GTOS Programme Director