

Integrated Global Observations of the Land (IGOL) – an IGOS-P Theme.

Special Meeting on Observational Priorities for Conservation and Biodiversity

**3rd-4th November 2005
Washington DC**

The IGOS Partnership (IGOS-P) was established in June 1998 by a formal exchange of letters among the 13 founding Partners for the definition, development and implementation of the Integrated Global Observing Strategy.

The principal objectives of the Integrated Global Observing Strategy are to address how well user requirements are being met by the existing mix of observations, including those of the global observing systems, and how they could be met in the future through better integration and optimization of remote sensing (especially space-based) and in-situ systems.

The Integrated Global Observing Strategy serves as guidance to those responsible for defining and implementing individual observing systems. Implementation of the Strategy, i.e. the establishment and maintenance of the components of an integrated global observing system, lies with those governments and organizations that have made relevant commitments, for example, within the governing councils of the observing systems' sponsors.

Currently a Land Theme is under preparation. Two meetings have already been held of its Theme Team and a draft plan is in preparation.

At the last meeting in July 2005 it was agreed that a special meeting should be convened to discuss observational priorities for Conservation and Biodiversity. Invitations are being made to key organizations to attend this 2 day meeting.

The final report of the land theme will be a high level strategic document rather than a very detailed technical definition of every possible observation. In particular it will be important to identify the highest priority enhancements needed in relation to the collection of observations and their delivery to users.

For background participants are encouraged to consult the IGOS Partners web page (<http://ioc.unesco.org/igospartners/over.htm>) with its description of the land theme (<http://ioc.unesco.org/igospartners/LAND.htm>) and the scope of IGOL in the original document approved by the IGOS Partnership in Rome 2004 (http://ioc.unesco.org/igospartners/docs/theme_reports/igolversion2.doc).