



## GLOBAL TERRESTRIAL OBSERVING SYSTEM<sup>1</sup>

5 April 2006

Dear Ms Jenny Wong,

Please find below the statement from the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) in regards to the request from COP 11 on view on the “Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action” (under agenda item 6).

GTOS statement:

The Global Terrestrial Observing System’s Panel on Global Observations of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD) held a workshop on Monitoring Tropical Deforestation for Compensated Reductions, at Jena, Germany on March 21-22, 2006.

At the workshop GOFC-GOLD formed the ad hoc working group to provide technical guidance and support on remote sensing capabilities for monitoring tropical deforestation at the national level in the context of UNFCCC discussions on reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries.

The workshop considered current capabilities for monitoring deforestation and forest degradation at global and national levels utilizing satellite data and complemented by in situ validation.

The major conclusion was that changes in forest area can be monitored through, such methodologies with confidence. The remote sensing and forestry communities represented at the workshop are ready to provide support on the development of guidelines that can be implemented at the national level

The working group is preparing a report to assess technical capabilities for estimating emissions as input to the upcoming SBSTA meeting.

Close statement

Sincerely,

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GTOS Programme Director

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