



*Dr. John R. Townshend  
Chair Scientific and Technical Board  
Global Observations of Forest Cover  
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University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742, USA*

Dr. Johann G. Goldammer  
Fire Ecology Research Group &  
Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)  
Max Planck Institute for Chemistry  
c/o Freiburg University  
P.O.Box  
D-79085 Freiburg  
GERMANY

March 5, 2002

Dear Dr. Goldammer

**Co-chairmanship of the GOFC Fire Implementation Team**

Global Observation of Forest Cover (GOFC) is a coordinated international program designed to provide ongoing space-based and in-situ observations of forests and other land cover. These observations are intended to support sustainable management of natural resources and to help provide a better understanding of the terrestrial carbon budget. This is a challenging task, involving not only space agencies and other data providers but also many international, regional and national user groups. GOFC acts as a panel of the Global Terrestrial Observing System, which is itself sponsored by FAO, ICSU, UNEP, UNESCO, and WMO.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of GOFC, I am pleased to invite you to become the co-chair of the Forest Fire Monitoring and Mapping Implementation Team. This invitation is based on the leading international role you have played in the production and use of fire information products and in the coordination of activities relating to fire in the international realm. The role of Implementation Teams is to plan, conduct, and supervise activities which will advance GOFC's overall objectives. Under its other co-chair, Dr. Christopher Justice, the first tasks for the Fire Team have been identify the most critical and urgent requirements and work towards their implementation. There is now much work to be done to ensure an integrated approach to the collection assembly and distribution of information concerning fire at global regional and local scales. I would like to stress that, as with all such international organizations, the task of GOFC is not to duplicate activities, best carried out at local levels, but to focus on those international coordination tasks that are essential to ensure consistent regional and global observations.



GOFC is a Panel of the Global Terrestrial Observing System

Your leadership and experience in such international activities will, I know, prove invaluable to GOFC in achieving its goals.

We are inviting you to serve as co-chair of this Implementation Team for an initial term of three years, from 2002 to 2005. It is anticipated that most of the team's activities will be carried out through e-mail and telephone conferences. However, the team will normally have at least one annual face-to-face meeting in addition to other workshops and seminars that it may organize.

I very much hope you are able to accept this invitation. I look forward to receiving a positive reply from you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John R. Townshend".

Dr. John Townshend





# Global Observation of Forest Cover

An international collaboration of partners working to provide coordinated observations of global forests and other land cover

24 January 2001

Johann G. Goldammer  
Global Fire Monitoring Center  
Max Planck Institute for Chemistry  
c/o Freiburg University  
D-79085 Freiburg  
Germany

Dear Dr. Goldammer:

Global Observation of Forest Cover (GOFC) is a coordinated international program designed to provide ongoing space-based and in-situ observations of forests and other land cover. These observations are intended to support sustainable management of natural resources and to help provide a better understanding of the terrestrial carbon budget. This is a challenging task, involving not only space agencies and other data providers but also many international, regional and national user groups. GOFC acts as a panel of the Global Terrestrial Observing System, which is itself sponsored by FAO, ICSU, UNEP, UNESCO, and WMO. A description of GOFC's implementation strategy can be found at <http://www.gofc.org/gofc/project1.html>.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of GOFC, I am pleased to invite you to join the Forest Fire Monitoring and Mapping Implementation Team. This invitation is based on the leading international role you have played in the production and use of fire information products. The role of Implementation Teams is to plan, conduct, and supervise activities which will advance GOFC's overall objectives. Under its current leader, Dr. Christopher Justice, the first task for the Fire Team will be to identify the most critical and urgent requirements and work towards their implementation. I would like to stress that, as with all such international organizations, the task of GOFC is not to duplicate activities best carried out at local levels, but to focus on those international coordination tasks that are essential to ensure consistent regional and global observations.

We are inviting you to serve on this Implementation Team for an initial term of three years, from 2001 to 2004. It is anticipated that most of the team's activities will be carried out through e-mail and telephone conferences. However, the team will have one annual face-to-face meeting in addition to workshops and seminars that it may organize.

I very much hope you are able to accept this invitation. I would be grateful if you could send a reply (preferably by e-mail or fax) to Mr. Tim Perrott, who is the Executive Director of the GOFC Project Office, hosted at the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing in Ottawa. His contact information can be found below.

Sincerely yours,

*for* Dr. John Townshend  
Chair, GOFC Science and Technical Board