

Formulation Workshop - April 17, 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria

Summary

- 1) The participants of the SEERIN Formulation Workshop expressed strong interest in forming a regional network to include both *South Eastern and Central Europe*.
- 2) The network name is to be changed to include Central Europe. The new name was accepted with consensus to be: *South Central European Regional Information Network (SCERIN)*
- 3) Network participants: It was decided that the network includes, but is not limited to the following countries: Bulgaria, Turkey, Macedonia, Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland.

The importance to include operational agencies and scientists from the fields of sociology and economy was stated. It was decided that the regional representatives will provide appropriate suggestions for individuals to be invited to future workshops.

- 4) SCERIN Goals: The group outlined the following priority objectives:

- Characterize (map) the specific Land Cover interests and diversity in the region
- Identify drivers of land cover change
- Monitor vegetation productivity and condition

The goals above are applicable to the following areas of specific interest: Agriculture, Forestry (natural, commercially managed, orchards), Grassland, Water reservoirs and River deltas.

- 5) SCERIN Cross-cutting Thematic Areas include:

- Detection and analysis of Land-Use and Land-Cover Change
- Impacts of Land-Use and Land-Cover Change on the Regional, National and Local Management, specifically: Forest and Water Resource Management, Biodiversity and species preservation, Sustainable Development and Natural Resource Management, Global and Regional Climate Change, Assessment of the Human Dimensions of Land-Use and Land-Cover Change

- 6) Research projects, applications and capacity building initiatives to be conducted by the network should focus on these regional issues:

- Environmental consequences of construction (roads, hydropower dams construction)
- Food and agricultural security
- Forest change processes and driving forces (natural/environmental & social)
- Effects of drought, stress factors (air pollution, bark beetle) on vegetation
- Urbanization processes and environmental impacts
- Comparison/Validation for Standardization of high (Landsat) and low (MERIS and MODIS) resolution products
- Standard land cover classifications and development of regionally-adapted versions
- Establish Regional and Local Validation Sites (local database, spec. methods)

- Regional Spectral Library (characterize species spectral diversity)
- Common vs. local tools, approaches, methods
- Identify BILATERAL projects within SCERIN

These were suggested by the participants at the Formulation Workshop, however the list will be amended and updated based on additional input from the SCERIN participants.

6) SCERIN Capacity needs

- a) Collaborative Data Base (list of links to available data for collaborative projects, contact person)
- b) Collaborative opportunities – internships, workshops (participants will send links to Petya Campbell for inclusion)
 - Form working groups to focus on specific topics (see 5b)
- c) Collaborative work-space, to include working documents, presentations and publications and to facilitate the exchange of data
 - SEERIN website (currently being updated, need to: change name and contacts, add links to relevant networks: S4C, EnviroGRIDS, etc.)
 - Work space – cloud space for data, and for documents Google Drive and/or Drop Box
 - Common archive of data – spectral and field survey library

7) SCERIN Meetings:

- a) Capacity building workshop
 - Objectives: Update on state of the art in LCLUC research in SCERIN, capacity building and training
 - Duration (4-5 days):
 - Overview (2-3 days) State of art in the field, Current opportunities
 - Training (2-3 days) Smaller groups training on specific targeted topics
 - Location: Czech republic (Prague, Summer 2013)

In addition, invitations for holding a workshop in 2014 were provided by the representatives from Turkey and the Carpathian network. At a later time SCERIN can be also hosted in Brno, Czech Republic.

- b) Additional meetings – suggested was to organize special sessions at established conferences and meetings

The GOF-C-GOLD Land Cover Project Office will organize a GOF-C-GOLD Symposium on the campus of Wageningen University on April 15-19, 2013. Special sessions on GOF-C-GOLD Regional Network activities are scheduled. More information will be provided soon in the GOF-C-GOLD LC newsletters and website <http://www.gofcgold.wur.nl/sites/letter.php>.