

Biospheric Sciences Branch Highlights September-October 2001

**** First SAFARI 2000 Data Workshop, Siavonga, Zambia**

About 140 scientists participated in the SAFARI 2000 First Data Workshop August 28-31, 2001, in Siavonga, Zambia. The meeting began with summaries of major SAFARI components, including the Wet Season (Kalahari) Campaign, the Dry Season (Aircraft) Campaign, the NASA ER-2 and University of Washington CV-580 aircraft sensors, the in-situ aircraft data, and the SAFARI 2000 Data System. Thereafter, the meeting was highlighted by various "break-out" discussions designed to facilitate data and project integration and synthesis. The break-out discussions were punctuated by plenary presentations and panels from Air Pollution Impacts Network for Africa (APINA) and IPCC delegates on addressing regional environmental concerns with SAFARI 2000 data. Participants also discussed the formatting and delivery of important SAFARI findings to regional policy makers. Each meeting participant received a copy of the First Volume of the SAFARI CD-ROM Series, developed at NASA's GSFC. Many participants took advantage of available computers in the welcoming area to register their own data collections via the ORNL DAAC's Metadata Editor Lite (OMELite).

**** E. Levine selected for two posts involving soil science**

Dr. Elissa Levine has been selected to serve on a special committee of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) in a joint project with USDA/ NRCS and the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution in the development of a soil exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History. The current concept for the exhibit is to display monoliths of state and world soils and provide computer interactive educational experiences for the public and students that visit the exhibit.

Dr. Levine has also been chosen to serve as "Associate Secretary of Division 4" (The Role of Soils in Sustaining Society and Environment" for the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS). Dr. Levine will serve in this position beginning at the 17th World Congress of Soil Science meeting in Bangkok, Thailand next August, and continue through 2006.

**** Code 923 Fluorescence Team presents to Vegetation Effects Environmental Sensing**

Dr. Elizabeth Middleton and members of the NASA/USDA Fluorescence Team were invited to participate in a one day (10/04/01) Program Planning Workshop held in Alexandria, VA on Vegetation Effects Environmental Sensing (VEES), sponsored by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA).

The Fluorescence Team provided one of the nine invited presentations on existing and emerging "stand-off" technologies that could be further developed for finding land mines and/or ameliorating the toxicity of either land mines or biological/chemical agents. This was the first of several planning meetings to assist DTRA in developing an innovative research program to be initiated in FY'04.

**** Landsat-7 Science Team Special Issue**

The October issue of Remote Sensing of the Environment is a special issue dedicated to early results from the Landsat-7 Science Team. Edited by Drs. Samuel Goward (UMD) and Jeffrey Masek (NASA GSFC), the papers discuss application of Landsat-7 data to land-cover analysis, glaciology, coral reef monitoring, and volcanology. Additional articles highlight the role of instrument calibration, the long-term data acquisition plan, and educational outreach. Drs. James Irons and Darrel Williams (NASA GSFC) helped to coordinate the publication of this volume.

**** Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM) RFP Released**

A request for proposals (RFP) for Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM) formulation phase studies was released on November 02. The RFP package can be found on the NASA Acquisition Internet Service (NAIS) at URL: <http://procurement.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/EPS/sol.cgi?acqid=98988>. This release represents a significant milestone in the development of the LDCM.