

CHARTER

User Working Group

Oak Ridge National Laboratory Distributed Active Archive Center For Biogeochemical Dynamics

Revised and approved November 2010

Preface

The Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) has been designated as the site for the Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC) for Biogeochemical Dynamics, one of several DAACs established by NASA as a part of the Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS). The Earth Sciences Data and Information System (ESDIS) Project in collaboration with the Earth Science (ES) Division and Earth Observing System (EOS) Program, has directed each DAAC to establish and sponsor a DAAC User Working Group. This document defines the responsibilities and authority of the Biogeochemical Dynamics DAAC User Working Group and establishes the guidelines to be followed in organizing and operating the Group. The ORNL DAAC management, the ES Program Office, and the ESDIS Project Office are responsible for carefully considering all Group recommendations.

ORNL DAAC for Biogeochemical Dynamics

Mission and Objectives

The mission of the ORNL DAAC is to assemble, distribute, and provide data services for a comprehensive archive of terrestrial biogeochemistry and ecological dynamics observations and models to facilitate research, education, and decision-making in support of NASA's Earth Science. The anticipated kinds of data include both ground-based and remote-sensing measurements related to biogeochemical and ecosystem processes. Sources of data include NASA funded field campaigns (such as FIFE, OTTER, BOREAS, EOS Land Validation, LBA-ECO, and portions of NACP), flux towers, selected relevant measurements from EOS satellites, relevant model inputs, outputs, and model source code, as well as other biogeochemical dynamics data useful to the global change research community. In addition, the ORNL DAAC should acquire, archive, and distribute data related to biogeochemical cycling that facilitates interpretation, processing, and validation of EOS remote-sensing measurements and data products.

To fulfill its mission, the ORNL DAAC has the following goals: (1) serve as the primary active archive for biogeochemical dynamics data derived from NASA's field campaigns; (2) provide field data to assess the accuracy and uncertainty of NASA's remote sensing products; (3) develop best practices, tools, and training for data providers to generate terrestrial ecology and biogeochemical dynamics data for sharing and archival; (4) archive and disseminate regional and global data products for modeling and analysis; (5) archive and disseminate model source code to enable synthesis of results across modeling studies; (6) develop and use the best

available technology to organize and present data to users; and (7) facilitate interdisciplinary synthesis by providing and integrating diverse data required to address common hypothesis (across multiple scales, model-data intercomparison, etc.)

ORNL DAAC User Working Group

Responsibilities

The ORNL DAAC User Working Group is responsible for providing recommendations and consultation on a broad range of topics and issues related to the definition, design, development, implementation, and operation of the ORNL DAAC for Biogeochemical Dynamics. The Group is responsible for representing the scientific interests of the research community in this process. The Group facilitates the two-way flow of information between the ORNL DAAC and the scientific community. Topics for which the Group will be responsible for making recommendations include, but are not limited to:

- Defining the ORNL DAAC's science goals
- Prioritizing ORNL DAAC activities, including data set acquisition, generation of value-added products, user support, development activities, and operational functions
- Providing recommendations on annual work plans and long-range planning
- Providing recommendations on interactions and agreements on data management between field campaigns and the ORNL DAAC

The ORNL DAAC User Working Group will serve in an advisory capacity only and will not be responsible for making decisions or for implementing recommendations.

User Working Group Membership

Voting members of the UWG will consist of scientists representing past and current NASA field projects in biogeochemical dynamics, NASA terrestrial ecology and interdisciplinary science projects, biogeochemical dynamics projects sponsored by other agencies, and other groups (e.g., policy, assessment, communications, and education). Members will be invited to participate on the Group for a three-year term and may be reappointed for a second three-year term.

The ORNL DAAC Manager, the ORNL DAAC Scientist, the ORNL DAAC Program Scientist, and the ESDIS Project Representative will serve as *ex officio* members of the UWG. *Ex officio* members will be non-voting members of the Group.

The UWG Chair will be selected by the Group from its membership. The ORNL DAAC Scientist will serve as Vice-Chair.

The future structure and membership of the Group will be recommended by the existing Group, with concurrence from ESDIS Project and the NASA ORNL DAAC Program Scientist.

Meetings And Communications

Meetings of the ORNL DAAC User Working Group will be scheduled, planned, and led by the UWG Chair, or an alternate voting member of the UWG, and Vice-Chair. Meeting frequency is as required to address relevant issues in a timely fashion (once or twice each year), in conjunction with more frequent communications between the ORNL DAAC and the Group.

The Chair will lead the Group in developing recommendations for the ORNL DAAC. The Chair will be responsible for preparing formal reports, summarizing recommendations to the ORNL DAAC, ESDIS management, and the Earth Science Division, as appropriate.

The Vice-Chair will be responsible for assisting the Chair, keeping the Group informed about the activities of the ORNL DAAC and for communicating with the Group, the ESDIS Project Office, Earth Science Division, and other DAAC User Working Groups on all relevant topics and issues, including Group activities, recommendations, and the actions taken on those recommendations.

The Group may convene subgroups to discuss specific issues as necessary to accomplish its objectives; such subgroups will report to the full Group at meetings and through written reports.

Funding and Administration

Funds to support the Group will be provided through the ORNL DAAC budget and will be administered by the ORNL DAAC Scientist through the budget for that activity. Funding for specific activities undertaken by Group members on behalf of the ORNL DAAC may be made available through the DAAC as appropriate.

Implementation

The ORNL DAAC User Working Group will be implemented according to the terms and conditions outlined in this document. This document will be updated as needed by the Group Chair in consultation with the Group, ESDIS Project Office, and the Earth Science Program Office.