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Abstract

Our Changing Planet: The FY 2001 Global Change Research Program is a report to Congress supplementing the President's FY2001 budget, pursuant to the Global Change Research Act of 1990. The report describes the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP); summarizes recent highlights in global change research, assessment, and observations, and highlights of the FY 2001 budget; discusses the seven Program Elements and FY 2001 plans in each of these research areas; and includes an appendix that details the FY2001 budget, including program components and program highlights for each of the departments and agencies that comprise the USGCRP. Achieving the goals of this program will require continued strong support for the scientific research needed to improve understanding of how human activities are affecting the global environment, and of how natural and human-induced global change is affecting society and ecosystems.

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**Back Cover: EOS-Terra/MODIS images of:
(1) global vegetation; and (2) sea surface temperature and land reflectivity**

Also see inside front cover for additional information on EOS-Terra/MODIS.)

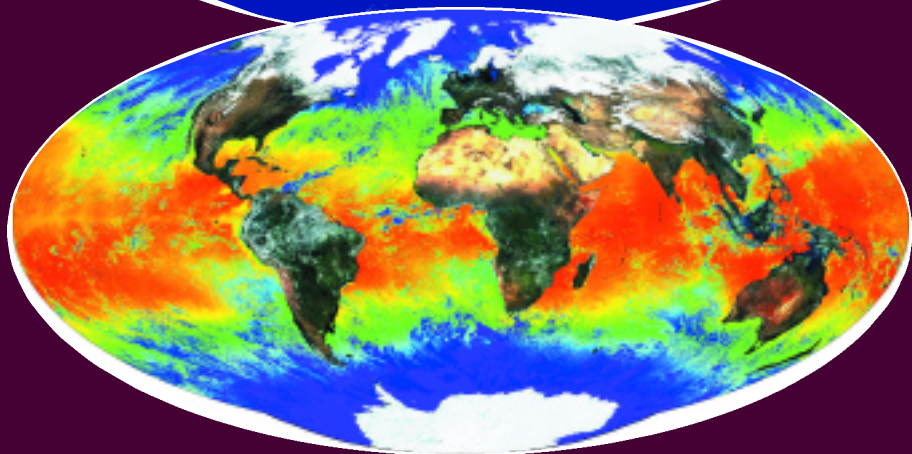
Top image:

Global vegetation. MODIS will essentially monitor the "metabolism" of the Earth. This global 8-day composite image of the MODIS Vegetation Index shows where green foliage has been produced by plants on land. Areas colored green and dark green show greater amounts of vegetation productivity, yellow shows little or no production, and red is a boundary zone. Time series of these MODIS vegetation composites show the green foliage actively "breathing in" carbon dioxide for photosynthesis and accumulating biomass—these observations can be summed over the course of a year to estimate annual net productivity.

Bottom image:

Sea surface temperature and land reflectivity. MODIS provides frequent (every 1-2 days) global views of many of the Earth's vital signs. This image shows a true-color land surface, derived using MODIS' Surface Reflectance Product, and a false-color sea surface temperature (red and yellow hues are warmer, blues are cooler). Source: Courtesy of Jacques Descloitres, MODIS Land Group, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. These and other MODIS images may be viewed at <http://modarch.gsfc.nasa.gov/MODIS/> or <http://terra.nasa.gov/Gallery/> or <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov>

The U.S. Global Change Research Program



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