GOFC-GOLD Fire implementation Team – 14 June 2007

Participants: Michael Brady, Johann Goldammer, Ivan Csiszar, Chris Justice, Bill DeGroot, Elaine Prins, Emilio Chuvieco, Chris Elvidge, Anatoly Sukhinin, Erin Naydenov

1. <u>GOFC-GOLD Program Update</u>: Chris Justice gave an overview of GOFC-GOLD. Anthony Janetos has taken over as Chair of GOFC-GOLD from John Townshend. John Townshend has remained on the Land Cover IT. The project office is available to provide support to Fire IT members. Chris Justice and Johann Goldammer are Co-Chairing the Fire IT.

   The focus of GOFC-GOLD is on the observations rather than the in-situ. Johann Goldammer provides the interaction with the international community including UN and fire management programs. Chris Justice has been taking the lead on the earth observation activities.

   The Fire IT participated in the International Wildfire conference in Seville, Spain, where the UN was more actively involved than in the past. Regional network representatives from Africa participated in the conference and held a session on African fire activities.

   There are several new plans underway for satellite systems including; the European Sentinel initiative, the U.S. NPOESS system, the NOAA lead GOES system, and the AUSBIRD system lead by Germany and Australia. Data policy and product quality and validation are always a concern for the Fire IT.

   The Fire IT is not a formal GOFC-GOLD funded program; it is a contributory program from national and international efforts contributing to the goals of GOFC-GOLD.

2. <u>IT Membership and Rotation</u>: The intention of the IT is to have a small group of people working to achieve the GOFC-GOLD goals, including international coordination. Examples of successful initiatives include: validation of burned area products, geostationary satellite network for fire monitoring, and a fire danger initiative. Chris Justice suggested that individual IT members become responsible for the coordination of task areas.

   IT rotation is needed, Chris Justice plans to step down as Co-Chair and remain on the IT. IT members are requested to submit nominations for a Co-Chair to replace Chris Justice over the next year. A replacement for Johann Goldammer will follow the year after.

   The IT membership needs to be updated. Nominations for new IT members and those that want to step down can be sent to the Co-Chairs. Historically membership has included critical agencies and regional representatives; with more representation from the satellite community than from fire management community, and more data providers than users.

   The IT structure needs to be re-focused. The role and the capacity of IT members need to be developed. IT members should take ownership of one of the IT objectives and form thematic networks. This process will change the role of the IT from passive to proactive. Michael Brady indicated that the project office is able to take the bulk of the administrative burden off the Co-Leads. A formal process for rotation needs to be developed. **Action**: Michael Brady, Chris Justice, Johann Goldammer and Ivan Csiszar will develop a process, including deadlines.

   The rotation should be complete prior to the Fire IT workshop in September. Chris Elvidge supported the rotation and indicated that he plans to step down.

3. Regional Fire Network Structure: Initially GOFC-GOLD initiated a regional network approach where land cover and fire were integrated. In some regions (S. Africa, S. America, SE Asia) separate fire regional networks where formed separately from stronger land cover networks. Currently the trend within GOFC-GOLD is to bring these networks back together, at least to be aware of what the other network is doing.

    In the past, fire management has not been included in the regional networks. Johann Goldammer has been working with the UN to develop an international fire management network. Increased harmonization in needed between regional networks. Based on the outcomes of the Seville conference, regional consultations will be organized to bring regional players together with the Fire IT. The Fire IT should be a part of the implementation of FAO's voluntary guidelines. A telecon communication structure is planned for the 13 networks. The post Seville conference website with all the regional conclusions can be accessed through the GOFC-GOLD Fire IT website and the GFMC website.

    Rotation within the regional networks is also planned. Philippe Mayaux as Vice Chair of GOFC-GOLD is involved in the emerging regional networks. Olga Krankina is coordinating the regional networks, following her nomination at the regional network workshop in Jena. Plans are underway for an Africa regional networks meeting in Ghana in November 2007.

4. GOFC-GOLD Fire Objectives, Tasks and Implementation: Ivan Csiszar reviewed the nine IT objectives. These objectives and activities will relate to the composition of the IT. Members will take over responsibility for an objective. A more detailed discussion of these objectives is planned for the Thessaloniki workshop. Individuals that can take the lead for these objectives need to be identified and a work plan developed.

    Chris Justice suggested that at the next IT meeting the objectives be reviewed, and that a state of the art for each of these areas be written, to produce a special issue or a progress report on meeting these goals.

    For the objective that focuses on the availability and use of information, a global assessment of fire is required. This is a task where the Fire IT can take the lead with RN contributions. The fire assessment would feed into the FRA 2010, but would need to be completed at least 12 to 18 months ahead. This joint initiative could be broadened to include more consistent national reporting based on satellite products. This would be a unique contribution from the RN's, GOFC-GOLD and the UN network system.

    Johann Goldammer suggested that the Fire IT work proactively and not wait for the FAO, a small working group should be set up and have a meeting with individuals that have been involved in the global fire management assessment under FRA 2005 and the RN leaders that have contributed to the regional reports for the FAO assessment. A procedural proposal should be made to involve GOFC-GOLD and the GFMC. If FAO is not interested in supporting this initiative, then GOFC-GOLD should seek support separately and offer the product to the FAO. This will be discussed further at the Fire IT workshop, and a separate global fire assessment workshop to be held in the next fiscal cycle.

5. Contribution to GEO tasks: There are three tasks where the Fire IT is contributing. The Fire IT is contributing to the task on the development of a virtual constellation for risk management through the global geostationary fire-monitoring network. The task on capacity building in developing countries has not been very active; however, the Fire IT is trying to

get involved. Johann Goldammer, Tim Lynham and Bill DeGroot are championing the task relating to the global early warning system.

The workshop in Ghana will address the global early warning system with a two-day meeting on the development of an early warning system for Sub-Sahara Africa, which will involve the user community and those providing fire danger rating products in S. Africa. Plans are underway to develop a prototype of an African early warning map. There will also be a three-day RN meeting, including the launch of the W. Africa network.

In March 2008, there will be a workshop in Edmonton, where the international community will provide input to the global early warning system. Funding is not yet in place for the global early warning system. The Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre (Tom Keenan) in Melbourne, Australia will participate in the early warning system and are interested in the Ghana workshop. **Action:** Michael Brady, Bill DeGroot, Emilio Chuvieco and Johann Goldammer will draft an agenda for the Edmonton workshop and circulate to the IT.

Chris Elvidge reported that there is an architecture and implementation pilot project involving fire monitoring in Africa. This is a part of GEO Net Cast. The target is to have a semi-operational system, in terms of the provision of data products, to highlight at the upcoming GEO plenary in November. The project lead is George Percival, who is also a lead on the open GIS consortium. **Action**: Chris Elvidge will pass on project details to the Fire IT Co-Chairs and Michael Brady.

6. IT meeting – Thessaloniki: Emilio Chuvieco has organized the EARSeL SIG Fire workshop with local hosts from the University of Thessaloniki. The workshop will focus on the relationship between science and management, with a series of presentations and a state of the art review by invited speakers. All of the contributing papers will be at the poster session. Round tables will be held to foster the links between research areas.

   The Fire IT meeting will be held before the EARSeL workshop. Fire IT reorganization will be discussed; individuals will be assigned to give an update on IT goals as a precursor to the state of the art document. The workshop will focus on the fire early warning system and the global fire assessment. **Action**: Michael Brady and Ivan Csiszar will develop and agenda and invitations for the IT meeting.

7. Other upcoming meetings: The ISRSE meeting being held in late June in Costa Rica will include a fire session, where Ivan Csiszar will present GOFC-GOLD and remote fire monitoring. A RedLaTIF meeting will take place 22 September in Argentina. The Fire IT meeting will be held 27-29 September in Thessaloniki. The Direct Broadcast workshop will be held 10-11 October in Mexico City, where fire-monitoring using direct broadcast capabilities will be discussed. The Ghana workshop will be held 12-16 November, followed by the early warning system meeting in 2008. The Fire RN (NERIN) will hold a meeting in Moscow in early 2008.

8. Any Other Business: The Fire IT should be supportive of new initiatives to improve the availability, access, quality and acquisition of data relative to fire. Free and open sharing of data should be encouraged. The Fire IT should be cautious about supporting initiatives. Endorsement can be provided to initiatives that meet the goals of GOFC-GOLD. Letters of support for projects that meet the goals of GOFC-GOLD can be written. A set of criteria needs to be developed to specify what criteria must be met for GOFC-GOLD endorsement.

The next Fire IT telcon will be held in early September, prior to the Fire IT meeting to focus on the Thessaloniki workshop.