

## **GOFC-GOLD Land Cover Implementation Team Teleconference 21. November 2007, 11.30 ET**

Participants: Frederic Achard, Michael Brady, Matt Hansen, Martin Herold, Herve JeanJean, Hakan Olsson, Chris Schmullius, John Townshend, Curtis Woodcock, Mike Wulder

### **Details**

Curtis Woodcock opened the teleconference by informing about GOFC-GOLD LC-IT meeting. The Boston implementation action plan was distributed to all participants and is open for comments and suggestions.

#### **1) Report from GOFC-GOLD Africa workshop**

Michael Brady informed about the successful GOFC-GOLD Africa workshop. Land cover issues were discussed and the Regional Networks have been informed about the upcoming validation exercise.

#### **2) IGOL transition to GEO**

John Townshend will at the GEO plenary to present the final IGOL report for approval. He mentioned that a roadmap for transition to GEO has been laid out. GOFC-GOLD and related GEO task activities will take on some of the IGOL requirements. Other areas (i.e. land use) are less well reflected within in GEO and should not be lost. IGOL should not immediately disappear to ensure a thorough GEO transition process. The LC-IT will review the IGOL transition strategy with respect to GOFC-GOLD roles may talk about it in next ExComm telecom after the GEO plenary.

#### **3) GEO plenary issues**

Besides IGOL presentation and transition issues, there are two additional items of particular importance for the GEO plenary that should be taken up by Michael attending the plenary as GTOS representative. Both issues directly relate to GEO task DA-07-02. Related progress has been acknowledged as GEO early success story and the further implementation activities require GEO support:

A) Decadal survey: GEO should help to ensure that the upcoming global Landsat data gap is filled through a collaborative effort of existing sensor assets with similar characteristics. The land cover team will work the Excom about a GEO plenary intervention for the establishment of a CEOS Constellation effort and filling image requirements for global 2010 high resolution dataset.

B) The global land cover validation effort towards a “best available land cover map” planned by the LC-IT requires suitable reference data, ideally from SPOT 5 observations. The LC-IT will start the process to generate some official request to CNES for SPOT imagery in support of decadal dataset and the land validation/best practices effort and GEO should be asked for supporting this effort.

#### **4) UNFCCC-REDD**

The REDD team is getting ready for COP 13. The sourcebook draft will be hosted by the GOFC-GOLD LC PO website and will be presented on several occasions during the COP. The current version is an early draft and will be extended after the first round of review. JRC has offered to lead the revisions and next round of edits, including a closer involvement of the GOFC fire team.

#### **5) UNFCCC ECV standards**

As discussed in Boston, Michael Wulder provided a first edit of the land cover draft standard report. Curtis and Martin will take on the next round of revisions before sending it to the land cover team. John emphasized the need to be consistent with the previous GCOS documents and specifications. Martin will be able to give a presentation at the GTOS side on ECV's during the COP in Bali.

## **6) Global validation/best map effort**

Curtis informed about the discussions in Boston and the proposal on fully starting with such an effort. The issue of LCCS, its use and the process to become an ISO standard remains unclear the LC office should work on improving this.

## **7) Decadal survey and global validation data**

Herve discussed the interest of CNES to support the decadal survey and global validation effort with SPOT data. Given commercial constraints, CNES would require a mandate from the international community (IGOL, GEO, CEOS, GOF) to start resourcing such an activity (please GEO action items above). There maybe merits to take advantage of France's EU presidency next year where global change is an important issue.

## **8) FRA2010**

Matt and Frederic informed about FRA2010 progress and interaction with Mette. It seems that some of the concerns are already addressed (i.e. starting with land(tree) cover, do 1990-2000 first). Significant progress is expected for next year and GOF-GOLD should consider its contribution (i.e. validation). Chris Schmillius asked for input to select sites most suitable for applying Radar data (acquisition planning) for the FRA2010 survey. Several sources exist and an email exchange with key experts will start after the telecom.

## **9) New LC-IT members**

The group reemphasized the need for new LC-IT members from continents currently not represented. Several suggestions have been made and the team is requesting further suggestions or comments:

- Latin America (Carlos Souza)
- China (Li Jiyuan – John please correct)
- India (Devendra Pandey)
- UNEP (W. Gillroth – John please correct)

The issue of guest membership on ITs (ie. for European activities) should be brought up to next ExComm meeting or teleconference.

## **10) Other business**

Chris informed about the Earth Science Advisory Committee (ESAC) that she has recently been appointed to. This is a high-level panel directly reporting to ESA director of Earth Observation.

John informed a recent proposal success for a project to map forest change globally with Landsat data.

M.Herold, 22 Nov2007