

## **GOFC-GOLD Land Cover Implementation Team Teleconference 12. March 2008, 10.30 EDT**

Participants: Frederic Achard, Sergey Bartalev, Michael Brady, Hakan Olsson, Chris Schmallius, Martin Herold, Curtis Woodcock, Mike Wulder

### **Details**

Michael Brady opened the teleconference by informing about GOFC-GOLD developments and the 2008 GOFC-GOLD calendar. A document with relevant GOFC-GOLD meetings was circulated to the team is should be used to indicated funding needs. All minutes of regular GOFC-GOLD teleconferences (Excom, IT's, RN's) are available from the GOFC-GOLD website (<http://www.fao.org/gtos/gofc-gold/minutes.html>).

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

Curtis informed about 2 new members that have joined LC-IT. Carlos Souza from Brazil is already involved in GOFC-GOLD REDD activities and has started efforts to evolve a Latin America regional network with land cover focus. Devendra Pandey is the direct of the Forest Survey of India and has previously contributed to GOFC-GOLD REDD workshops.

Michael Brady informed about an update of the terms of reference for IT membership now including the possibility of private sector member participation. Technical and scientific expertise remains the primary issue for appointing new members. A related ToR document update is available on the GOFC-GOLD website.

#### **2) Next Land Cover Symposium planning**

13-17.October 2008 are the agreed on dates for the next GOFC-GOLD land cover symposium in Jena, Germany. Following the Jena workshop tradition, several individual workshops will be held over the course of this week including:

- Land cover LC-IT meeting
- Tropical (REDD) and boreal monitoring workshop
- Expert meeting on technical guidelines for land cover change accuracy assessment
- Regional Network meeting
- Science and technical board meeting
- LCCS update and tutorial

Chris and Martin will prepare a draft agenda for the meeting for circulation and to prepare a list of invitees. It was noted that some time is set aside for an internal LC-IT meeting.

#### **3) GEO forest observations workshop**

Plans exist for a GEO forest observations workshop. Initial dates for holding the meeting in May were shifted to September but not confirmed. Michael and Curtis are working with Doug Muchoney from the GEOsec to help prepare an agenda with links to GEO tasks and activities.

#### **4) Amazon basin regional land cover workshop**

Carlos Souza is leading the effort to hold an Amazon basin regional land cover workshop in Belem. More details will be circulated soon. LC-IT members are encouraged to attend since this is a land cover workshop potentially evolving a Latin America regional network.

#### **5) FAO FRA 2010 kick off**

Several LC-IT members attend the FRA 2010 kick off meeting the week before at FAO in Rome. The global assessment includes a remote sensing survey. A presentation was given by Martin in the plenary on GEO and

GOFC-GOLD. A specific task force met during this week to define technical details and launch the pilot phase. Currently 20 large countries are involved in the pilot activity to consolidate the methodology. GOFC-GOLD is involved through several LC-IT members and to give technical advice, in particular on validation issues.

#### **6) UNFCCC-REDD activities**

The GOFC-GOLD REDD working group had a successful launch of the sourcebook during side events at the Bali UNFCCC COP 13 (see [www.gofc-gold.uni-jena.de/redd/](http://www.gofc-gold.uni-jena.de/redd/)). The last teleconference at the end of February to plan the next steps. The review process is ongoing and input has been received and will be considered in the next revision led by JRC. Frederic mentioned the importance of GOFC-GOLD as the central and independent coordinator for this effort. There have been some initial communications with IPCC led by JRC to potentially link the GOFC-GOLD efforts on the use of remote sensing for UNFCCC related monitoring (including REDD)

#### **7) UNFCCC ECV standards**

Martin informed about GOFC-GOLD presentations at the UNFCCC COP13 in Bali on ECV observations and standards development during the GTOS and ESA side events. Michael Wulder has 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. After discussions with GTOS, the LC-IT is responsible for the land cover ECV and the first full update is anticipated by July with the goal to finalize the standard during the October LC-IT meeting.

#### **8) Decadal survey and LSI**

The decadal survey should ensure that the upcoming global Landsat data gap is filled through a collaborative effort of existing sensor assets with similar characteristics. On behalf of GOFC-GOLD, Curtis has issued a proposal on how to implement a decadal survey. The meeting was presented at the CEOS meeting in Sanya. John Townshend did send a report from this meeting. The LSI Constellation Study Team which is working on the GEO Task on behalf of CEOS and who reports to the CEOS Strategic Implementation Team. It is led by Bryan Bailey (USGS) on behalf of CEOS and positive signals were received concerning the GOFC-GOLD LSI proposal. However, John emphasized that with CEOS, as a big organization with several different established groups, GOFC-GOLD needs to intensify activities to really push this effort. There is need to modify the GOFC-GOLD LSI plan if only clearly to indicate who is responsible for what component.

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

Curtis informed about that proposal submitted to NASA was not successful and team needs to come up with a plan on how to move forward on this issue.

#### **10) Other business**

The NASA LCLUC meeting is coming and Curtis will interact with the organizers to allow for a GOFC-GOLD related presentation. Discussions about the GEO land cover task, the GEO User Interface Committee activities and the IGOL transition into GEO was postponed to the next teleconference in 3 months time.

M.Herold, 14 March 2008