

GOFC-GOLD Land Cover Implementation Team Teleconference 20. May 2008, 10.30 EDT

Participants: Frederic Achard, Michael Brady, Hakan Olsson, Carlos Souza, Chris Schullius, Martin Herold, John Townshend, Curtis Woodcock, Espen Volden

Details

Curtis Woodcock opened the teleconference by informing about the GOFC-GOLD calendar for 2008 that was circulated to all participants. Several upcoming events were discussed over the course of the telecon.

1) 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. 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

An announcement has been sent to a broad community some positive feedback has been received in terms of interest and potential participation. Several people urged the specification of important topics to be worked on during the workshops. The suggestions made include:

- Moving from land cover to land use observations
- Discussion of experiences from (near) operational land monitoring systems
- Accuracy assessment for land change and associated area estimates
- Missing target 2010
- More detailed specifications for land cover change observation requirements (i.e. for defining satellite constellation concepts)

Most importantly, the process should start to work on these issues prior to Jena and prepare materials and workshop presentations accordingly.

There was discussion on inviting some higher level people in particular for the day of the Land Cover Symposium (Wednesday), potential invitees could include Brian Bailey (USGS) or Jose Achache (GEO) – an issue to be brought up in the next GOFC-GOLD telecom.

Martin will take on the action item to start more detailed organisation for the individual workshops.

2) Amazon RN workshop

Carlos informed the current planning. The dates are fixed for September and an initial plan to join the meeting with the GEO global forest monitoring symposium was left behind. The GEO symposium is currently scheduled for 3.-7.Nov. 2008.

Carlos mentioned the importance of proposal submission for the workshop by 30.May. He seek some help from the LC-IT and RN members. The issue will be discussed during the next GOFC-GOLD Excom teleconference.

3) GEO activities

Besides the evolving plans for GEO forest monitoring symposium, Martin reported on some progress. GOF-C-GOLD has submitted proposals for continuing some GEO tasks currently active in the 2007-2009 work plan, i.e. for the task dealing with global land cover. These proposals have been submitted through GTOS to the GEO Sec. GOF-C-GOLD is further involved in evolving GEO activities on global carbon monitoring.

4) UNFCCC-REDD activities

The GOF-C-GOLD REDD working group is currently revising the sourcebook. Besides responding to edits and review comments, the sourcebook will include additional chapters, i.e. on fire, soil carbon and evolving technologies that are prepared with the help of LC-IT members. Frederic emphasized the importance of GOF-C-GOLD as the central and independent coordinator for this effort. An updated sourcebook version will be presented during a GTOS/GOF-C-GOLD side event at UNFCCC/SBSTA 28 (5 June in Bonn, see <http://unfccc.int/meetings/sb28/items/4328.php>)

The sourcebook has been referred to in recent party submissions to be used for updating the current IPCC reporting guidelines (i.e. submissions of Canada and Coalition for Rainforest Nations (25 countries), see <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/sbsta/eng/misc04.pdf>).

Frederic informed about an IPCC background paper prepared for an IPCC LULUCF/AFOLU panel meeting in the middle of May in Helsinki. The aim of the meeting was to consider the existing IPCC guidance and to determine if additional guidance or clarification could be given to inventory compilers. The development of the background heavily draws from the GOF-C-GOLD sourcebook and this meeting provides the first step of engaging with the IPCC and the GOF-C-GOLD sourcebook. Positive feedback was received from the IPCC experts.

5) UNFCCC ECV standards and LCCS

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, however requires further guidance on the general structure – Martin will contact Alan Belward to receive some guidance from GCOS.

On LCCS matters, the GOF-C-GOLD LC-IT has received a request on feedback on a minor LCCS 3 detail. The response was that the LC-IT should review the whole LCCS 3 concept rather than a small detail. This should happen latest during the LCCS tutorial at the Jena workshop. Curtis emphasized the need to go beyond land cover classifiers and legend translations, where there seems to be wide agreement on, and to start thinking about generic classes and legends that would be needed to achieve full compatibility. Discussions should happen prior to the Jena meeting and Curtis mentioned the experiences of the NELDA project in this context.

6) Global validation/best map effort

Curtis informed about an initial proposal submitted to NASA that was not successful but he was asked to submit an unsolicited proposal where he is waiting for feedback. Curtis will follow up with an official letter from GEO/GOF-C-GOLD to acquire SPOT data for this global validation effort. John suggested to also ask the ALOS community on their interest to use ALOS/AVNIR data for this purpose. Chris further requested that type of letter for the TERRASAR satellite time for proposing a background mission.

7) LSI constellation

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 GOF-C-GOLD, Curtis has issued a proposal on how to implement a decadal survey that has been recognized by CEOS but not much progress can be reported. John emphasized the need to interact with both the CEOS LSI constellation group (B. Bailey) and the CEOS WGISS group chaired by Martha Maiden. John will soon interact with Brian Bailey on this matter.

8) FAO FRA 2010

Following the FRA 2010 kick off meeting the pilot phase of remote sensing survey has started including a Radar component at FSU Jena.

9) Regional networks

Curtis informed about proposal plans with Olga to bring regional network participants to the US and make best use of the existing Landsat data archive.

10) GMES Land fast track service and global monitoring

Espen informed about his new position in the GMES bureau. Part of the activities are linked to the so-called fast track service for land monitoring which also includes a component for global monitoring. The related services include global real time monitoring (i.e NDVI), global land cover and land use observations and applications outside the EU. Chris and other members of the LC-IT emphasized to importance of GOFC-GOLD team and the ESA project office to be involved in this process.

11) New land cover IT members

Martin informed about the interest of Australia and Japan to take a role in the LC-IT issued at a recent GEO meeting. The group recognized the importance of representing these regions. The issue will be brought up in the upcoming Excom teleconference for further consideration.

12) Other business

There was circulation of a proposal for “Kioto” satellite for global forest monitoring. The observation strategy will use a systematic permanent sampling with high-spatial resolution data on a 35 day repeat cycle. GOFC-GOLD feedback was requested from GTOS and FAO. Several LC-IT members are aware of the proposal and the discussions covered the following issue:

- Recognizing the importance of new satellite mission targeted at global land and forest monitoring, in particular to ensure redundancy of satellite observations,
- There a ways that such a mission would be valuable and contribute to GOFC-GOLD objectives (i.e. for validation purposes),
- The spatial resolution configuration would be suitable for the intended objectives,
- There were some concerns:
 - Suitability of the permanent sampling approach
 - Length of the 35 day repeat cycle (cloud cover)
 - Data will not be available for free

M.Herold, 21 May 2008