

GOFC-GOLD Regional Network Telephone Conference #2

13 December 2007

Participants: Olga Krankina, Michael Brady, Chris Justice, Narisara Thongboonchoo, Cheikh Mbow, Erin Naydenov

1. Welcome, Objectives and Agenda Overview: Olga Krankina welcomed the participants and provided an overview of the agenda.
2. GOFC-GOLD developments: Michael Brady reported that both of the GOFC-GOLD implementation teams held technical and planning meetings in the fall. These meetings identified activities that would include Regional Networks. The reports will be made available on the GOFC-GOLD website. The Accra West Africa Regional Network meeting was held in conjunction with a workshop on the requirements for Fire Early Warning Systems in Africa. There was a Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Ministerial Summit and plenary in Cape Town in November. The Summit was a two year review of GEO activities. GOFC-GOLD is involved in several activities in the GEO 10-year work plan. Thailand and several African countries had a strong presence at the meeting; however representation from less developed countries needs to be improved. Currently there is a Climate Change Convention Conference of the Parties in Bali, Indonesia. GOFC-GOLD has a team at the conference that are participating in several activities, including the development of guidance material for reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries (REDD Source Book). There were several presentations on the source book at the convention. GOFC-GOLD is also involved in the SBSTA committee with GTOS, where standards for essential climate variables in the terrestrial domain are being established. There will be an Executive Committee meeting coming up in which regional representation will be sought. The role of network counterparts in Europe or North American will be promoted. This is a network representative working in an organization in a western country (e.g. Olga Krankina with NERIN).
3. Report from the African Meetings in November (WARN): Cheikh Mbow reported that the West Africa Regional Network meeting included stakeholders from various Universities, technical services, NGO's and others. The second part of the meeting was related to fire early warning issue with participation from international experts, West Africa and other established regional networks in Africa. The next activity coming out of this workshop is to set up a network Secretariat. The sources of funding for the Secretariat and thematic work need to be determined. There may be opportunities for support from the JRC for fire issues. Communication between the WARN participants has begun. There is a WARN email address and a participation list. **Action:** Michael Brady and Cheikh Mbow to discuss the WARN Secretariat. The network is organized with a secretariat at the head of the network working with 5 thematic groups. The thematic groups are responsible for seeking funding opportunities and writing proposals. The secretariat will coordinate the administration of the activities and link closely with the thematic group leaders. The thematic leaders will be determined once the thematic groups have been organized. Cheikh Mbow reported that having the representatives from the other Regional Networks in Africa was valuable as they provided their experience working as a network - language barriers must be broken so that

groups can work together. Challenges that were pointed out included finances and national membership (attracting and retaining members). The priority is to complete the workshop report. The report details will help determine funding needs.

4. East Asia plans: Michael Brady reported that he and John Townshend are planning a joint East Asia – SEARRIN workshop related to the exchange of Earth observations and capacity building in spring 2008. Chris Justice reported that there is a plan to hold the next land use/land cover workshop in Thailand in November 2008. The idea is to reinvigorate SEARRIN at this workshop. The spring meeting may be able to link in with the November meeting planning. Dave Skole should be involved in these land use/land cover events.
Action: Chris Justice will send around an email to outline the November workshop details. Olga Krankina suggested that representation from the eastern wing of NERIN might benefit these activities.
5. GOFC-GOLD Fire Implementation Team: Chris Justice reported that coming out of the September Fire IT meeting there are four areas of interest where the regional networks will be engaged. The first activity is the development of a global validation of the various global and regional burned area products that are available. This will be a series of validation sites where a common protocol is applied. The accuracy of coarse resolution products are tested using high resolution satellite imagery. The protocol is being developed currently. The second activity is the global fire assessment that is being initiated over the next two years. Regional assessments will be compiled into a global assessment of fire. Several planning meetings will be held over the next year in collaboration with the UN Global Fire Networks in which regional network participation will be sought. The third activity is regarding capacity building to utilize the products available and to understand the regional requirements for information from the satellite systems. The Fire IT will be looking for opportunities to participate in workshops that allow for training or capacity building at the regional or continental level. The fourth activity where regional involvement is important is the Global Fire Danger System. Following the recent fire danger meeting in Accra there is another meeting planned in Canada in summer 2008. Funding for the global fire danger activity is being sought. Michael Brady reported that the fire danger requirements for Africa were identified at the Accra workshop. The requirements are being summarized in a report. The results of the Accra workshop were presented (poster display) at the GEO Ministerial Summit in late November. START provides support for regional network participation at Implementation Team events.
6. Network Introductions and upcoming network events:
 - SEARRIN update: Narisara Thongbooncho reported that in South East Asia local fire authorities are not familiar with SEARRIN or GOFC-GOLD. Activities should be held to promote the network. The upcoming meeting planned for Thailand may be a good opportunity to promote the network. Local fire authorities should be invited to learn about network activities. Chris Justice reported that Thailand is downloading some of the international datasets on fire activity. There are ground stations across East Asia that are producing fire count data. There are many activities going on in the region but are not well coordinated. Olga Krankina suggested that fire could be added as an important component on the agenda's of the two events being planned in the region. Chris Justice suggested that a fire session be added on to the November workshop in Thailand.

7. Status of Regional Networks' Web pages: Erin Naydenov reported that the regional network page of the GOFC-GOLD website provides background information and a link to Regional Network home pages. Several of the links are inactive and need to be updated (Miombo and SAFNet). The Secretariat is able to host a webpage for Regional Networks that do not have their own websites. As an example, NERIN has a web page on the GOFC-GOLD website. Information, documents, links and content can be posted by the Secretariat and updated as requested by the networks. Any information and ideas for content should be sent to Erin Naydenov (enaydeno@NRCan.gc.ca) at the Project Office. A webpage on the GOFC-GOLD website may be a place to start for networks (WARN, Amazon Basin) that do not yet have a functioning website. Olga Krankina suggested that a more proactive approach be taken. She plans to follow up with individual networks by requesting that they provide updated links to Erin Naydenov.
8. Any other business:
 - The next RN telcon is planned for 13 March 2008 at 09:30 ET