

GOFC-GOLD Regional Network Telephone Conference #2

13 March 2008

Participants: Olga Krankina, Michael Brady, Chris Justice, Chris Schnullius, Johann Goldammer, Pauline Dube, Paya Demarcken, Narisara Thongboonchoo, Cheikh Mbow, Mastura Mahmud, Lisa Bowker, 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 reviewed the 2008 GOFC-GOLD schedule. **Action**: Regional Network participants to send in activities to be added to the schedule to Erin Naydenov. The schedule is used to budget for GOFC-GOLD events by START and CFS. GOFC-GOLD minutes of the Executive committee, Land Cover IT, Fire IT and Regional Network teleconferences are posted at: www.fao.org/gtos/gofc-gold/minutes.html. There will be a Fire Danger Rating Workshop in Edmonton, Canada, 12-16 July. The meeting is sponsored by the WMO, CFS and the GOFC-GOLD Fire IT. Workshop participants are being sought from those involved in fire danger rating operations, science and development.
3. Amazon workshop plans: Michael Brady reported on a land cover oriented workshop for September 2008. The Amazon workshop is being planned by Carlos Sousa. This activity is related to the development of an Amazon Basin RN. There is a potential for a GEO connection and involvement of REDLatif. GOFC-GOLD will help support the workshop.
4. SE Asia workshop plans: Chris Justice reported on a joint workshop between the NASA LCLUC program and MAIRS (Monsoon Asia Initiative). This is planned for early November in Thailand. The LCLUC science team meeting will be held at the same time. The workshop will help to reinvigorate the South East Asian regional network and would include SEARRIN. South East Asia regional network participants will be involved in the workshop design and planning. There is an open Direct Broadcast meeting in Bangkok 31 March – 4 April, individuals with ground station interests are welcome to attend. The meeting will also cover land cover surface reflections, albedo and vegetation.
5. Asia workshop and potential network plans: Michael Brady reported that this is an initial planning meeting followed by a workshop relating to the development of an East Asia RN, involving China and Japan. The workshop will try to engage countries in Asia with satellite sensors and encourage data sharing. SEARRIN will be involved with the goal of creating a system of data sharing. The dates have been postponed for the time being. This initiative is being led by John Townshend.
6. Updates on preparations for the 7th SAFNet workshop: Pauline Dube reported that SAFNet meets every two years. The meetings are held in different countries in order to increase networking activities. The next meeting will be held in Caprivi, Namibia, 22-26 September 2008. The plan is to have the 12 countries aligned with SAFNet participate. The main constraint is funding, the meeting may be smaller as the meeting location is hard to access. Caprivi is a frequently burned area with unique community fire management practices. The intent is to also run a two day training session along with the three day workshop. Other networks that are interested in fire (Afrifire Net) are also being contacted to increase coverage. Alexander Held and Pauline Dube will meet to discuss network coordination. Operational funding was short as the START provided funding was used for the 2006

meeting in Maputo. Chris Justice requested a list of resource people that should be involved in the workshop, the project office then will send out early invitations. Michael Brady indicated that the SAFNet members that participated in the fire meeting in Accra, Ghana (WARN meeting) projected a strong sense of ownership and SAFNet community.

7. OSFAC update: Chris Justice indicated that there may be a regional OSFAC workshop focused on forests, water and carbon. The workshop could be held in early 2009 and will require START support. Paya Demarcken reported that OSFAC needs to make an effort to promote the network. The project office in Kinshasa has set up a training capability and is now providing training throughout the region. **Action**: Chris Justice and Paya Demarcken will follow up with Philippe Mayaux; Erin Naydenov will update the activity schedule.
8. WARN update: Michael Brady indicated that the West Africa regional network is looking to hold an event in early 2009 to follow the Accra workshop now that the network is up and running. **Action**: Michael Brady will follow up with Cheikh Mbow.
9. NERIN: Olga Krankina reported that the next NERIN workshop will be held in Syktyvkar, Russia, 9-11 July. START will be providing workshop support.
10. Land cover Symposium and plans for cross-network topics; GLOBCOVER release: Chris Schnullius reported that the next Land Cover Symposium will be held in Jena, Germany, 13-17 October 2008. The draft agenda will be distributed shortly. The Symposium will include parallel REDD and Boreal sessions; a GOF-C-GOLD STB meeting, a change and validation workshop, a LCCS workshop, and a RN meeting. Olga Krankina suggested that prior to the symposium it is important to develop a framework for engaging the networks in FRA and GLOBCOVER activities and invite representatives of both activities to the symposium to discuss possibilities.
 - The GLOBCOVER product will likely be released in summer 2008. The first global land cover map based on MERIS data with a spatial resolution of 300m, looks quite good because of the geometric resolution, however there are some areas with data problems. GLOBCOVER and the classification system is a process where GOF-C-GOLD has suggested that the regional network expertise should be brought in to validate the map and improve the classification system. ESA is considering this as an ongoing interactive process and is planning the next version of the GLOBCOVER map with acquisitions likely starting this year.
 - Chris Schnullius suggested that Regional Network expertise be brought into the Forest Resource Assessment. There is a new remote sensing task force where GOF-C-GOLD could become more active. The RN's could help the statistical sampling framework, with more than 9000 points world wide that are being evaluated. This is will be a topic for discussion during the October symposium. **Action**: LC IT project office to send Erin Naydenov background materials to the FRA and GLOBCOVER to distribute.
11. Network website status and updates: Erin Naydenov reported that the Regional Network web page of the GOF-C-GOLD website has been updated. The RN teleconference minutes are posted along with the ExComm, Fire IT and LC IT minutes. RN activities and announcements are posted on the calendar webpage. RN documents can be posted in the report series and the other documents section. Network pages will be created for RN's that do not have their own websites (Amazon and WARN). **Action**: Erin Naydenov will follow up with Paul Desanker regarding the Miombo website.
12. Any other business: The next RN teleconference is planned for 12 June 2008.