

## **GOFC-GOLD Regional Network Telephone Conference #4**

### **9 October 2008**

Participants: Olga Krankina, Michael Brady, Chris Justice, Wisdom Dlamini, Jacqueline Sambale, Sosthenes Kufogbe, Kathleen Landauer, Philippe Mayaux, Johann Goldammer, Sundar Sharma, Narisara Thongboonchoo, Dominick Kwesha, Cheikh Mbow, Zubair Qamar, Mastura Mahmud, Paya de Marcken, Chris Schmullius, 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 on support that the Project Office has recently provided. GOFC-GOLD participated in a recent GEOSS in the America's meeting in Panama, in which Carlos Souza (AMAZON RN) participated. The GOFC-GOLD report 24 is a strategy document which also outlines administrative guidelines. The financial guidelines referring to RN activities are being updated, and will be presented at the RN workshop in Jena.
3. Update on preparations for the Jena LC Symposium: Jacqueline Sambale reported that there will be 106 participants from 29 countries at the Symposium; background documents are available online (<http://www.gofc-gold.uni-jena.de/sites/Jena08.php>). There will be presentations related to regional network activities at several sessions of the Symposium including the REDD and LCCS workshops. Michael Brady requested that RN participants give priority to the RN workshop, which runs parallel to the first part of the strategy meeting.
4. Update on the preparations for the Jena RN workshop: Olga Krankina reported that the main goal of the workshop is to meet, review where the RNs are, and plan for future activities. The workshop will begin with invited speakers who will outline the ongoing and future activities where Regional Networks have or should have a role. The workshop will finish with a RN business meeting for future planning. Regional Network participants should provide their input on activities and the role RNs should play. Each Regional Network is requested to prepare 2-4 slides describing the network, the region, and the main themes and activities. Slides should be emailed to Olga Krankina prior to the workshop. Erin Naydenov requested that each network submit the RN update forms that were distributed, so that details can be added to the RN workshop report. Philippe Mayaux plans to present the EUMETSAT system over Africa, where there are plans to install a receiving station in each country, which could provide information on fire, vegetation, water, and Landsat data.
5. Report on the 7<sup>th</sup> SAFNet workshop: Wisdom Dlamini reported on the Southern Africa Fire Network (SAFNet), which has 30 members comprised of fire scientists, fire managers, policy makers and communicators from Southern African countries. The goal of SAFNet is to foster collaborative efforts in fire monitoring and management in Southern Africa through the use of remote sensing and other geospatial technology; and to enhance policy information through the use of field observations and remote sensing for natural resources management in the region. Currently SAFNet receives support from NASA, USAID and START; however there is no secure funding. The recent SAFNet workshop was held in Namibia, 22-26 September. There were presentations outlining fire and fire management issues from countries that participated, as well as scientific presentations on fire management. There was a strong interest on the use of observation data for fire management. There were also discussions on how to move SAFNet forward over the next two years including; the ways

and means of supporting the network (institutional support), recruiting more members, and increasing awareness on how to use Earth observations data for fire management. Four SAFNet champions were identified: Navashni Govender (South Africa), Joaquim Macuacua (Mozambique), Mdumiseni Wisdom Dlamini (Swaziland), and Philip Frost (South Africa).

6. Update on WARN: Cheikh Mbow reported that over its first year WARN has been trying to increase participation and identify members and interest groups that are interested in the thematic issues (water, coastal/urban, fire, and carbon/forest/climate) that were identified in Accra. The next steps are to work with the Project Office to develop a webpage for the GOFc-GOLD site. WARN will require support for a secretariat in order to function well.
  - WARN has begun a one year project on developing capacity in carbon stock measurements across ecology and land use in West Africa, which is a joint venture with Michigan State University (David Skole), supported by START. The countries involved are Ghana, Burkina Faso, Senegal, with the possibility of Cote d'Ivoire. There will be a technical workshop in January 2009.
  - The Danish International Development Agency is supporting WARN to undertake a three year project entitled West Africa Network for Studies of Environmental Change. The project will include Mali, Senegal, Ghana, Burkina Faso along with University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University. The four main issues are; bushfire, rural land use change, urban spread, and Earth observations for natural resources. This project will involve a number of PhD students.
7. Update on Data Initiative: Michael Brady reported that USGS has formally accepted the data initiative proposal, the EROS data centre in South Dakota has agreed to provide Landsat data archive to RN partners. Detailed planning will be done at the Jena symposium. The initial component of the program will be an Africa pilot project. A background presentation was distributed prior to the RN telcon for review. The initiative will be discussed during the Jena RN workshop. Olga Krankina suggested the RN's begin to identify participants for the Africa pilot project. RN participants should also identify the spatial temporal domains that they would like. Other Landsat products that could address RN thematic issues should be identified for discussion at the RN workshop.
8. OSFAC: Paya de Marcken reported that OSFAC is planning to hold an OSFAC regional workshop Kinshasa in early 2009. The OSFAC funds that were initially proposed have been reduced. Chris Justice and Philippe Mayaux will be looking at other funding options.
9. NERIN: Olga Krankina reported on the Syktyvkar meeting which focused on land cover mapping at high latitudes. The report will be available shortly. NERIN's primary focus is on Boreal issues and is working to develop the non-Boreal theme, where a champion from Kazakhstan has been identified who will participate in the Jena RN workshop.
10. SEARRIN: Mastura Mahmud reported that there will be a MAIRS meeting in January. There will be a side meeting to revise the SEARRIN network and plan for future projects.
11. AMAZON: Carlos Souza sent in an update that the proposal for an Amazon remote sensing RN meeting submitted to the US Forest Service was approved. The support will account for nearly half of the funds required and other potential sponsors have expressed interest. The meeting has been pushed back to the first quarter of 2009. Currently seven countries, represented by 14 participants, are participating in the network.
12. START update: Kathleen Landauer reported that START has been working on support needs for the recent SAFNet meeting, the Jena symposium and the upcoming RedLatif. START is

also supporting the data initiative; once the participants in the pilot phase have been identified START will work directly with those participants. START also puts out a call for proposal once a year that is separate from the START GOFC-GOLD funds.