

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 17 November, 2005**

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Chris Justice, Regina Olgesby, Chris Schmullius, Alan Belward, Martin Herold, Kathleen Neumann, Reuben Sessa, Garik Gutman, David Skole, Kathleen Landauer, KC Lai, Murugi Larsen

### **Highlights and Action Items**

- Congratulations to John Townshend for winning the prestigious 2005 William T. Pecora award for "Outstanding Leadership in Advancing Global Land Remote Sensing".
- GOFC-GOLD to be highlighted at UNFCCC COP 11 side event.
- Project office of the Land Cover Implementation Team will move to Berlin in early 2006.
- GOFC-GOLD to co-lead a GEOSS Forest Community of Practice with Canada and Sweden.
- Land Cover Symposium planned for March 2006.
- Several initiatives planned for new regional networks.

#### **1. STB meeting follow-up**

- Meeting report has been distributed to all participants of the meeting and also posted at the GOFC-GOLD website: <http://www.fao.org/gtos/gofc-gold/series.html>.

#### **2. GTOS/GXOS matters**

- GCOS: IP progress report; GCOS side event at COP 11: Alan Belward, Frédéric Achard, Martin Herold and John Latham will be attending the COP 11 meeting 28 November to 9 December 2005 in Montréal. Martin herold will present GOFC-GOLD at the ESA side-event on 2 December.
- GEO II representation: Michael Brady and Chris Schmullius will attend the GEO II meeting on 14-15 December, 2005 at WMO, Geneva. The two will discuss possible interventions with John Townshend prior to the meeting.
- GTOS activity update, review exercise, etc.: KC Lai gave an overview on the GTOS questionnaire, which was sent to John Townshend, Michael Brady and Alan Belward. Concerns were raised about the focus of the questionnaire. Michael Brady will respond to KC Lai.
- CEOS/IGOS-P matters: John Townshend attended the recent CEOS meeting. GOFC-GOLD was mentioned in several instances. He will circulate a draft on suggested procedure to be adapted by GEO on Landsat-type data continuity. CEOS is considering how to respond to the GEOSS. At the meeting the GEO Secretariat Director addressed concerns over duplication of activities and assured the meeting that GEO will try to avoid duplication.

#### **3. Administration and Fund Raising**

- Adjustments to START-NASA funds/Status of proposal: Kathleen Landauer informed the meeting that the 2005 proposal was rejected by NASA. The proposal was not suited for the ACCESS venue, although the reviewers indicated that it had good components. John Townshend and Hassan Virji are trying to find other projects in NASA that might provide funding.
- New GOFC-GOLD brochures: new brochures are at the printers and will be ready for distribution at the COP 11 meeting in Montreal.
- Panel membership: Alan Belward will be stepping down as the GOFC-GOLD vice chair and TOPC chair in March 2006. He recommended Phillippe Mayaux as his replacement. It was agreed that nominations will be sent to project office for consideration at the next teleconference.

#### **4. Fire IT Update**

- Project proposal on global early warning system for wildland fire will be presented at the EWC III conference in March 2006. Johann Goldammer continues to promote GOFC-GOLD within

UNISDR. The next UNISDR meeting will be held in March 2006 in Bonn. The global early warning system for wildland fire proposal will be presented. Other GOFD activities are being planned for the meeting.

- Planned fire IT activities: No new activities.

## 5. Land Cover IT Update

- GOFD-GOLD/CEOS/WGCV LPV continuous fields workshop, S. Dakota: more than 24 participants attended the workshop on validation approaches and methods. A best practice document is to be developed. Information on the workshop is on the website and will be included in the next Land Cover IT newsletter.
- GEO activities: Comments on GEO work plan v1; Martin Herold stated that Land Cover activities are well reflected in the GEO work plan. Need to incorporate more Fire IT activities in the work plan. All documents on GEO work plan have been circulated. User Interface Committee: The Community of Practice on forests (FCP) concept will be presented during the meeting on the 16 December in Geneva. GOFD-GOLD, Canada and Sweden will co-lead the FCP working group. The Land Cover IT project office will represent GOFD-GOLD in this endeavor. Fine res. Continuity; John Townshend added that Landsat-type data continuity has been added in the next version of the GEO work plan. This topic was discussed recently with the GEO Director and NASA. John Townshend to circulate to the Executive Committee Members a draft on suggested procedure to be adapted on Landsat-type data continuity. The procedure will be submitted to GEO next week.
- IT meeting plans: Land Cover IT project office to move to Berlin in February 2006. Land Cover IT plan to host a Symposium on Forest and Land Cover Observations 21 to 25 of March, this will include workshop on: 1) Monitoring Tropical Deforestation for Compensated Reductions; 2) Monitoring Boreal Forest Ecosystems and Carbon accounting; 3) Land Cover Implementation Team meeting; and 4) Regional Networks meeting. This will also be a good opportunity to hold an inauguration ceremony for new IT office. Chris Schmillius briefed the meeting on her participation at a Remote Sensing conference in Russia. Chris was able to present information on GOFD-GOLD LC and IGOS. Will continue working with SIBERIA II in Berlin.
- Working group on tropical deforestation and carbon accounting: Martin Herold mentioned that the current focus is to prepare a best practice document. David Skole added that the group had reached a consensus to work at a national level and natural forest and focus on emissions, as opposed to CDM. Also need to consider what has been developed in terms of CDM. Plans are to hire a consultant to do the base work. A person has been identified who is familiar with CDM in India. Consultant fees should not exceed 5K.

## 6. Regional Networks

- It was agreed to hold a regional network meeting on 25 March 2006 in Berlin as part of the Land Cover IT Symposium. RN representatives will have an opportunity to interact with GOFD-GOLD Executive Committee members and the Land Cover IT. It was also suggested that a subsequent PAN African RN meeting be held in 2006 in Africa and that a field component be included.
- Status of East Asia RN and meeting plans: John Townshend stated that planning for the meeting was in progress. Plan to hold the meeting in April – May 2006 with China acting as coordinator. Michael Brady will visit Beijing in December to develop meeting plans. Land Cover IT will participate in a meeting in Mongolia. It was suggested that the two meetings could be coordinated.
- Other network plans: Kathleen Neumann has started the process to establish an East Europe Network. An outline document has been prepared. The creation of the network will further be explored during the Land Cover IT meeting in March. Funding still required for Kathleen Neumann to continue with this work.

West Africa RN: There is a strong interest in West Africa to establish a RN. It has been suggested that a workshop be held in 2006 with both ITs involved. There is a proposed Africa initiative with funding for 21 million for developing products. Alan Belward is involved in this initiative.

Phillippe Mayaux is preparing a proposal for West Africa. Alan is to keep members updated on this initiative. The program will start in 2006 and will have regional components. This would be a good opportunity for GOFC to get involved.

- Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) Open Science Conference in Beijing, 9 – 12 November 2006, call for sessions by 30 November 2005: GOFC-GOLD should be involved. GOFC-GOLD should be represented.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Next meeting to be held on 15 December 2005.

GOFC-GOLD Project Office