

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 15 December 2005

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Chris Justice, Chris Schmullius, Martin Herold, Kathleen Neumann, Reuben Seesa, Johann Goldammer, Olga Krankina

Highlights and Action Items

- GOFC-GOLD participates in recent UNFCCC and GEO events
- Plans in place for 2006 meeting of Land Cover Implementation Team
- NERIN (GOFC-GOLD Eurasia Regional Network) receives support for NELDA project

Details

1. UNFCCC COP 11 Summary

- Alan Belward, Frédéric Achard, Martin Herold and John Latham attended parts of the COP 11 meetings from 28 November to 9 December 2005 in Montréal. Martin Herold presented GOFC-GOLD activities at the ESA side-event on 2 December. The UNFCCC COP/SBSTA decision concerning "research and systematic observation" contains two items concerning GOFC-GOLD. The full draft decision can be found at: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2005/sbsta/eng/117.pdf> . The most important points are: a) The SBSTA welcomed and accepted the offer to provide a detailed report on a coordinated response to the needs expressed in the GCOS implementation plan at SBSTA 25 (November 2006); b) The SBSTA welcomed the efforts by the GTOS secretariat to develop a framework for the preparation of guidance materials, standards and reporting guidelines for terrestrial observing systems for climate and encouraged GTOS to continue its work. It also called on the GTOS secretariat to assess the status of the development of standards for each of the essential climate variables in the terrestrial domain. The SBSTA invited the GTOS Secretariat to report on its progress at SBSTA 26 (May 2007).

2. GEO II Summary

- Michael Brady and Chris Schmullius attended the GEO II meeting on 14-15 December 2005 at WMO, Geneva. They reported that the meeting approved; a) the GEO procedures and committees; b) the GEOSS 2006 work plan, which contains several GOFC-GOLD tasks; and c) the GEO 2006 budget. The next step for GEO is for members and participating organizations to submit commitments by the end of January 2006 to lead or participate in specific tasks in the work plan. They also reported that they will attend the GEO User Interface Committee meeting on 16 December to present a proposal for a GEO Community of Practice for Forest Observations (FCP). GOFC-GOLD, Canada and Sweden will co-lead the FCP working group.

3. Fire IT Update

- Johann Goldammer summarized the project proposal on global early warning system for wildland fire will be presented at the EWC III conference in March 2006. He also described a recent meeting at FAO with the FRA to discuss the thematic report on global fire planned for the 2010 assessment report. The GFMC has been invited to propose a supporting assessment of fire for the FAO report, which seems to indicate a better atmosphere of cooperation. Finally, he reported on a recent meeting at ESA concerning the Ecofire Study, which considers a dedicated fire-energy sensing system and is led by Martin Wooster.
- Chris Justice reported on a planned geostationary workshop at Darmstadt in 2006, which will aim to strengthen coordination of geostationary algorithm development. He also mentioned a Fire Regional Network meeting held 1-2 December 2005 at Mexico. The results of the 2005 Montreal Fire IT meeting are being compiled in a book chapter to be published in 2006. As a result of the Montreal meeting, a fire workshop is also being in India in 2006.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Chris Schnullius announced that the Land Cover IT project office will remain at Jena. The Land Cover IT office plans to host a Symposium on Forest and Land Cover Observations 21 to 25 of March, which includes workshops 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. John Townshend urged the LC-IT to use the meetings to review the overall LC strategy and identify specific tasks for members to complete over the next year. A meeting programme will be distributed shortly.
- Martin Herold mentioned the progress of the working group on tropical deforestation and carbon accounting. He also proposed a GOFC-GOLD session for the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) Open Science Conference in Beijing, China, 9-12 Nov 2006. It was agreed that a session proposal would be sent to the ESSP conference organizers.

5. Regional Networks

- The GOFC-GOLD regional networks have been informed of the networks meeting at the Jena Symposium. Murugi Larsen will prepare a budget and formal invitations. Olga Krankina proposed that the agenda for the regional networks workshop could include two information flows: 1) from LC IT and ExComm to the regional representatives defining the roles of networks in supporting GOFC-GOLD agenda and means for maintaining those roles; and 2) from the networks proposing their plans for playing these roles.
- Michael Brady will meet with China representatives of the East Asia Regional Network on 21-23 December at Beijing. John Townshend will also meet with the Beijing representatives in early January 2006.
- Martin Herold is coordinating a 1-day GOFC-GOLD workshop as part of the Mongolia International Remote Sensing Workshop planned for 8-10 June 2006.
- Olga Krankina reported that the Russian version of the NERIN web page is under development, it will be posted at <http://scert.ru> shortly. The NELDA project was approved by NASA for funding. NERIN will organize a NELDA workshop as part of a planned conference ENVIROMIS2006 in Tomsk July 1-8(<http://www.scert.ru/en/conferences/enviromis2006/>). The workshop will address validation of land cover maps in West Siberia and future expansion of validation site network.

6. Any Other Business

- Next meeting to be held on 19 January 2006.

GOFC-GOLD Project Office