

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 19 January 2006

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Chris Justice, Chris Schmillius, Martin Herold, Kathleen Neumann, Reuben Sessa, Johann Goldammer, Garik Gutman, Alan Belward, David Skole, Kathleen Landauer, Hassan Virji, Murugi Larsen

Highlights and Action Items

- GOFC-GOLD to provide land cover and fire product specifications for CEOS report to UNFCCC.
- Eight tasks identified for GOFC-GOLD in GEO 2006 work plan.
- Fire Implementation Team to present proposal for a global early warning system for wildland fire at the 3rd International Early Warning Conference (EWC III) in March 2006
- Agendas completed for 4 events planned for the Land Cover Symposium at Jena in March 2006
- Northern Eurasia network, NERIN, to hold planning meeting to initiate new NELDA project

Details

1. GTOS/G3OS

- Steering meeting plans 24 – 27 January 2006: Reuben Sessa reported that plans for the meeting are on schedule. Details on the GTOS Steering Committee meeting can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/gtos/meetGTOS3.html>. Action: Reuben to circulate the web link for the meeting. Alan Belward mentioned that GCOS and CEOS are preparing a joint report for the COP12 meeting in November 2006. He requested that GOFC be responsible for preparing the product specification sheets related to 6 land cover and fire variables, which are to be included in the report. Action: Alan Belward to send the product specification templates to GOFC-GOLD project office for circulation to IT co-chairs for review. Feedback required by end of January.
- GOFC survey submission: GTOS will post the results of the stock taking survey on the website.

2. GEO

- Follow-up on Geneva Plenary and User Interface meetings in December 2005:
 - Task list matrix submission – review of GOFC contributions: Michael Brady mentioned that the task list has been circulated. Both Land Cover and Fire ITs have agreed in principle to contribute their ongoing activities related to 8 tasks in the 2006 work plan. Contribution commitments to be submitted to GEO by 31 January 2006.
 - Participation in the GEO-Netcast project: reply to GEO request by 31 January
 - GEO committee participation: Michael Brady informed the meeting that committees and working groups were being set up. For more information on the committees visit: <http://earthobservations.org/>. Hassan Virji is a member of the Capacity Building Committee and is willing to assist GOFC. Concern raised that GEO should not duplicate existing projects.

3. Fire IT Update

- EWC III meeting and fire proposal: Johann Goldammer provided update information on the preparation of the 3rd International Early Warning Conference (EWC III) hosted by Germany and the UNISDR in March 2006 where the project proposal on global early warning system for wildland fire will be presented. No decision has yet been made by UNISDR if the project would be presented within the conference stream dedicated to those project proposals that have been endorsed by the UN. In the scientific symposium stream of EWC III two papers will be presented by the remote sensing community. A side event on early warning of wildland fire is planned at the conference. He also described the recent collaborative activities between the FAO, the Global Wildland Fire Network and the currently ongoing work of the GFMC. The GFMC has been entrusted by FAO to develop a first draft of a Global Strategy for International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management as well a first draft of a future Global Wildland Fire Assessment to be presented to FAO member states in Kotka, Finland, June 2006, in preparation of the Global Forest

Resources Assessment 2010 (FRA-2010). The thematic global wildland fire report of FRA-2005 is in the final stage of review by the GFMC.

- Other news and plans: Chris Justice mentioned that preparation have started for a Geostationary meeting to be held in Germany in early summer. The focus for the workshop will be co-ordination of a Global Geostationary network. Will use START funds to start a demo project. Web packages ready to be delivered. Chris Justice is going to visit the OSFAC office in Kinshasa in early February.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Jena IT symposium plans: Martin Herold gave an update on the preparations for the symposium. The working group for organizing this symposium will hold a teleconference on 20th January. Invitations and an updated agenda will be sent out next week.
- Working group on tropical deforestation monitoring: Martin Herold stated that the Working Group held a teleconference to plan the tropical deforestation workshop at the Jena symposium. David Skole has a graduate student who will work with him to prepare a paper for the tropical deforestation workshop.
- Other LC activities: Chris Schmillius and Markus Reichstein organizing session BG1.07 – Remote Sensing for Terrestrial Biochemical Studies to be held at the European Geosciences Union (EGU) in Vienna, Austria 2-7 April, 2006. Only a third of the papers have been submitted. Action: Hassan Virji to circulate information on the meeting to be held in Vienna.

5. Regional Networks

- Plans for regional network meeting at Jena: preparations in progress.
- Status of East Asia RN and meeting plans: Michael Brady and John Townshend have recently visited China. The development of the East Asia Regional Network is slow. Some issues have to be resolved, e.g. which organization will lead the network. The meeting in Mongolia could be an opportunity to follow up on progress made. Hassan Virji was also in Beijing recently and has offered to assist GOFC to identify potential members from N. Korea.
- Mongolia workshop 8-10 June 2006: Martin Herold mentioned that the Land Cover IT will assist with the workshop in Mongolia. Action: Martin Herold to circulate the workshop announcement.
- West Africa Network: Hassan Virji suggested that Cheikh Mbow be a member of the planning committee for the meeting to be held in Tanzania and involving START. Pauline Dube of SAFNet is on this planning committee.
- NERIN meeting: Olga forwarded an update on plans for a NERIN meeting. Plans are ongoing for the next NERIN workshop. It will be a smaller event - 1 day and focused narrowly on NELDA project. Require travel support for 3-5 participants.

6. Any Other Business

- IGARSS 2006, 31 July – 4 August, 2006: no submissions planned from GOFC.
- Land Use Workshop, 8 – 10th February, 2006: to be held at FAO, Rome, Italy. For more details visit: <http://www.fao.org/gtos/meetLUW1.html>. Kathleen Neumann will attend.
- Next meeting to be held on 16 February 2006.

GOFC-GOLD Project Office