

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 15 September, 2005

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, David Skole, Martin Herold, Kathleen Neumann, Garik Gutman, Reuben Sessa, Olga Krankina, Kathleen Landauer, Murugi Larsen

Highlights and Action Items

- New GOFC-GOLD strategy document soon to be finalized.
- East Asia Regional Network initiation workshop planned for April 2006.
- GOFC-GOLD contributes to the GCOS IP report for upcoming SBSTA and COP 11 meetings.
- Two sets of new GOFC-GOLD display banners available for use at meetings and workshops.
- New members joining Implementation Teams.
- GOFC-GOLD considers lead on new GEOSS community of practice on forests.
- Successful meeting held to consider new regional network in West Africa.

Details

1. STB meeting follow-up

- Meeting report: Michael Brady stated that the draft report was completed and sent to John Townshend and David Skole for review. Report will be circulated to the Executive Committee Members shortly. Note: STB action items are being addressed and reported during teleconferences. Final report will be posted on the website in the report series. John Townshend and Michael Brady will meet at UMD in mid October to finalize the strategy document.
- Recent East Asia network activities: John Townshend attended IGOL ad hoc meeting in Beijing in September. One issue discussed was organizing a GOFC-GOLD East Asia Regional Network workshop. GOFC-GOLD and NRSCC – China will jointly organize the workshop. GOFC-GOLD to issue the invitations and China will host and facilitate the meeting. Mengxue Li will report back on the suitability of these arrangements. Should have a broad representation from the region. Dr. Liu of NRSCC keen on including scientists from eastern Russia. David Skole to continue assisting in establishment of this network. It was agreed that the meeting should be held no earlier than April 2006.

2. GTOS/G3OS matters

- Draft GCOS IP progress report and further GOFC inputs, next steps: Michael Brady informed the meeting that the report had been distributed and he had received some comments. Ivan Csiszar forwarded input for Fire IT and Alan Belward and Martin Herold gave inputs on Land cover. The report and comments will be sent to Josef Cihlar by 16th September. Concern was raised that the report is too short. Reuben Sessa clarified that there is a short version – two pages to be submitted soon and there will be a longer version that can include more of the GOFC-GOLD inputs, which will be circulated later.
- GTOS activities: Reuben Sessa gave an update on the GTOS Steering Committee Meeting – will be held on 25 to 27 January 2006. Logistics on the meeting will be circulated soon. Biennial report for 2004 – 2005 is due on 16th September. **Action**: GOFC-GOLD project office to submit report. Contract for Kathleen Neumann has been approved. GOFC-GOLD project office funds contribution being processed. GTOS funds expected in November. GEOSS work packets have been completed and submitted. GOFC-GOLD activities are included in FAO and GTOS work packets. **Action**: Reuben Sessa to send FAO work packets to Project Office. **Action**: GTOS to request GOFC-GOLD project office to be included in GEO SEC distribution list. John Townshend has been asked and will submit input on land component of CEOS.

3. Administration and Fund Raising

- Adjustments to START-NASA 2005/06 budget: Kathleen Landauer stated that Chris Justice has sent changes for the Fire IT budget. The land cover budget still needs to be finalized. Some of these funds were used for the West Africa workshop. Funds are available for visiting scientists from developing countries. All funds must be used by 31st July 2006. **Action:** Land Cover IT to send their adjusted budget needs to Kathleen Landauer.
- Status of new proposal to NASA: Kathleen Landauer has no information on the status of the new proposal. John Townshend mentioned that the proposal was still going through the process and will probably know of its status soon.
- New workplan for Canada funding: the project office has been asked by Canadian Space Agency to submit a new three year work plan.
- Production of 2 banner display units has been completed. One unit to be sent to Jena this week. **Action:** Project Office to circulate images of the display units. The display will be first used at the S. Dakota workshop. Upon request, they can be sent to ITs and RNs for meetings and workshops.

4. Fire IT Update

- UN ISDR early warning survey for wildland fire: Report was submitted but have no updates.
- Planned fire activities – next Fire IT meeting: Chris Justice mentioned that they are writing up a book chapter on the Fire IT meeting held in Montreal, Canada. This chapter will be posted on the website as part of the report series or technical reports. Chris Justice and Johann Goldammer will be attending the 5th International Symposium on Forest Fire Protection, details can be found at http://www.fri.go.jp/symposium/5th/index_e.html. Ivan Csiszar updated the meeting on the planned South American fire network meeting that will be held on 1 – 2 December at CANOBIO Mexico. The meeting will be on burnt area validation activities.
- Fire IT will be replacing Prof. Dieter Oertel of DLR with Dr. Eckehard Lorenz of DLR as a member. **Action:** Project Office to issue letters.

5. Land Cover IT Update

- GOF-C-GOLD/CEOS/WGCV LPV continuous fields workshop, S. Dakota: planning still on track Martin Herold has been in touch with Matt Hansen. Workshop to be held 27-28 October at Brookings, S. Dakota. Concern was raised that there will be very few representatives from Europe. **Action:** John Townshend to prepare GOF-C-GOLD introduction for workshop.
- Membership review and changes: Martin Herold updated the meeting with changes to the land cover IT membership. Drs. Frederic Achard, Sergey Bartalev and Mike Wulder will be joining this team. It was suggested that Land cover IT should include a member from China. Michael Brady added that two generic letters have been prepared – 1. invitation letter for new members, 2. thank you letter for members that are leaving. ITs to provide information on members either joining or leaving for preparation of these letters. Term limit for members is an issue to be decided on and included in the strategy document. **Action:** include IT membership term in strategy document.
- GEOSS demonstration project. There is an opportunity for GOF-C-GOLD to co-lead a proposed forest community of practice group. Michael Brady to follow up on this by keeping in touch with one of the GEO co-chairs of the user interface committee who is Canadian. John Townshend added that José Achache is now the new GEO Secretariat Director and may change some of the practices. **Action:** next teleconference Martin Herold to report back on the GEOSS community of practice.
- Working group on tropical deforestation and related carbon accounting: Martin Herold and Kathleen Neumann to coordinate a teleconference to be held on 29 September and include: Alan Belward, Michael Brady, Ruth deFries, Martin Herold, Chris Justice, Kathleen Neumann, Chris Schnullius, David Skole and John Townshend. Agenda will be on GOF-C-GOLD's role in this

working group. Ruth deFries is taking a lead on this new initiative. **Action:** Martin Herold to circulate minutes of teleconference.

- Other planned land cover activities: Chris Schmullius is chairing a workgroup of International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS). This workgroup is called DERIVATION OF GLOBAL DATA, ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS. Details at: http://www.isprs.org/technical_commissions/wgtc_7.html#icwg4/7.

The Land Cover IT meeting was previously planned for November, but will be postponed to a later date. A suggestion was made that Land Cover IT should ensure that the new members participate in the meeting. **Action:** Land Cover Office to plan meeting at either Jena or Berlin early next year.

6. Regional Networks Update

- Plans for regional network meeting: Murugi Larsen mentioned that the project office had received suggestions for the workshop scope and location from the Regional Networks coordinators. These will be used to prepare TORS.
- West Africa network status: David Skole attended a 3-day meeting in West Africa. Identified a lead host – University of Dakar and the point of contact is Dr. Cheikh Mbow. Although the meeting was difficult to organize, it was successful and had 50 participants mainly from West African countries. During the meeting there was a half day presentation on GOFC-GOLD's role and SEARRIN was used as an example on Regional Networks structure and activities. A report will be prepared and also a Dakar statement on the agreement to establish a West African Regional Network. Still not a GOFC-GOLD Regional Network but possibility is there. Dr. Cheikh Mbow is an important contact and is already familiar with GOFC-GOLD and also has contact with SAFNet. He is presently being funded by START as a visiting scientist at the Michigan State University. **Action:** David Skole to circulate a report on the West African meeting.

7. Reports on other meetings & workshops

- IGOL: There will be a follow-up meeting at Beijing in January.

8. Any other business

- Next meeting to be held on the third Thursday of October.

GOFC-GOLD Project Office