

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 12 October, 2005

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, Alan Belward, Martin Herold, Kathleen Neumann, Reuben Sessa, Lucilla Spini, Olga Krankina, Kathleen Landauer, Murugi Larsen

Highlights and Action Items

- 2005 STB meeting report has been finalized and added to GOFC-GOLD report series.
- GTOS to report back on documentation prepared for COP 11 and role at Montreal.
- Fire IT co-leading proposal for a global early warning system for wildland fire.
- Three new members join Land Cover IT.
- GEO accepts inputs from GOFC-GOLD on preliminary version of 2-year work plan.
- Plans developed for GOFC-GOLD to co-lead new GEO Community of Practice on Forests.
- Working group on tropical deforestation and carbon accounting to develop guidance for best practice for reduction of Carbon.
- Executive Committee begins addressing panel succession and continuity issues.

Details

1. STB meeting follow-up

- Meeting report – Michael Brady mentioned that the report has been distributed to Executive Committee Members and a few others that attended the meeting. A few comments have been received. The report will be posted on the website in the next week as a GOFC-GOLD report series document. Action items in the report being followed-up in the teleconferences.

Strategy document - John Townshend and Michael Brady are incorporating comments into the strategy document and aim to have the final version of the report soon.

2. GTOS/G3OS matters

- Draft GCOS IP progress report and further GOFC inputs for COP 11: Michael Brady had received a note from John Latham indicating that no further input from GOFC is required. Reuben Sessa added that there is a possibility that panel chairs will be asked for more input for the background document. After sponsors send their input GTOS will submit a short report to SBSTA indicating current status. Alan Belward added that GCOS was in agreement with submission of a short report that still has the standards of terrestrial observation for land cover and fire as a GOFC-GOLD responsibility. Concern was raised that a lot of the material sent will not be incorporated in the report. **Action:** John Latham to confirm the decision made on documentation for COP 11. **Action:** GTOS to report back on what was submitted and their role at COP 11. Alan Belward suggested that GOFC can also contact GCOS secretariat for information on COP 11 submissions.
- GTOS activity update: Reuben Sessa stated that GTOS templates for publications were being prepared and will circulate drafts to the panel chairs and GOFC project office. Lucilla Spini gave an overview on upcoming conferences and meetings that GTOS will be involved in, e.g Conference of the Parties (COP-9) of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands to be held in Kampala, Uganda on 8-15 November. GTOS is organizing a side event called “Building Bridges Between observing systems and international conventions”. GTOS is finalizing a memorandum of cooperation with Ramsar. Also waiting for confirmation/schedule for a side event to the SBSTTA XI meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In the process of identifying a particular focus/theme for the side-event and inputs are welcome. A news note for the Ramsar side event will be circulated shortly by the GTOS Secretariat. No modifications have been made to the GTOS Conventions document. An updated version will be prepared for the GTOS Steering Committee in January 2006.

3. Administration and Fund Raising

- START-NASA funds: Kathleen Landauer received an email from Martha Maiden stating that the proposal was still in review. Received updates from Chris Justice, David Skole and Martin Herold on the current budget. There is some open funding that can be allocated for some other activities, such as the regional network workshop (item 6). Current funds must be spent by 31st July 2006.

4. Fire IT Update

- UN ISDR early warning survey for wildland fire: information from Chris Justice and email from Johann Goldammer is as follows, the formulation of a joint international early warning project for establishment of a global wildland fire early warning system as part of a global multi-hazard EWS, including GOFC-GOLD's participation, is underway. Deadline for submission is end of October. This is a GFMC led initiative by Johann Goldammer, with inputs from the Canadian Forest Service (Bill de Groot, Tim Lynham), WWRP/WMO, Bushfire CRC Australia and GOFC-GOLD (Ivan Csiszar). Third EW Conference will be held in March 2006 in Bonn. Johann Goldammer is a member of the organizing committee and Bill de Groot is a member of the international scientific advisory board.
- Planned fire activities: Chris Justice stated that a book chapter on the Fire IT Montreal meeting will be ready in two weeks. The book is on a fire conference held in Maryland and will give GOFC an outlet. Chris Justice will also be writing the introduction to a special edition for remote sensing and the environment on GOFC-GOLD. The REDLATIF meeting being organized by CONABIO Mexico is on schedule. The meeting to be held 1st and 2nd December. The Fire IT especially Chris Justice and Ivan Csiszar have been assisting with the preparations. Plans are underway for a NERIN Fire meeting in Moscow 14 – 16 November. Dr. Evgeny Loupian is leading with the organization and Ivan Csiszar is assisting. Chris Justice and Ivan Csiszar to visit India in the near future with a view to developing a regional initiative. They will be hosted by Dr. K.V.S. Badrinath who attended the Montreal fire meeting. START funds are allocated for the Indian initiative. Johann Goldammer and Chris Justice to attend a conference in Japan. Johann Goldammer will be giving a key note speech. Ivan Csiszar will attend a U.S.A. Climate Change Science Program Workshop on climate science in support of decision making on 14–16 November in Arlington. He will give a presentation on GOFC-GOLD's contribution to MODIS fire.
- There was a suggestion that ITs send their views to GOFC-GOLD project office on ways to improve communications in the panel and among ITs. Fire IT will hold a members teleconference.

5. Land Cover IT Update (co-chairs not present)

- GOFC-GOLD/CEOS/WGCV LPV continuous fields workshop: Martin Herold gave an update on the upcoming workshop. Planning is still on schedule. Expecting about 25 people.
IT Administration: Martin Herold informed the meeting that they had received acceptance for Land Cover IT membership by Drs. Frederic Achard, Sergey Bartalev and Mike Wulder. Still trying to identify additional members from East Asia – China and Australia. Håkan Olsson of Sweden has expressed interest.
- GEO activities: Martin Herold informed the meeting that GOFC-GOLD has submitted formal, detailed comments to the GEOSEC on version 0 of the 2006 work plan. John Townshend sent a separate, but complimentary letter to GEO Secretariat and emphasized the need for Landsat-type data continuity and the role of the GEO Secretariat to ensure it. Initial indications are that GEOSEC has incorporated many of the comments into version 1 of the work plan. Martin Herold also reported that GEO has expressed interest in developing a Community of Practice (CoP) for forests to support the GEOSS 10-year work plan and its societal benefit. GOFC-GOLD (through Martin Herold), Canada and Sweden have had preliminary discussions to co-lead the forests CoP. A

teleconference to discuss the development of the CoP is planned for next week - 8th October. Minutes from the teleconference will be circulated.

- Working group on tropical deforestation and carbon accounting: Martin Herold stated that discussions are underway within UNFCCC on the feasibility of compensation for tropical rainforest countries to reduce deforestation following the first commitment period (2012). The role of the GOFC-GOLD group is to provide technical guidance on current and future approaches. The first WG teleconference was held in September and the ToR and action items are currently being developed for a final decision at the next teleconference on 7th November. **Action:** Develop strategy for guidance document on best practices for reduction of Carbon.

6. Regional Networks

- Plans for regional network meeting: Murugi Larsen stated that a preliminary concept has been developed for the meeting, based on inputs from RN representatives. The concept will be discussed further by the working group (Michael Brady, Kathleen Landauer and Murugi Larsen). A draft meeting plan will be circulated to RNs contacts and ExComm Members.

7. Discussion on Succession Planning

A discussion was held on succession planning and procedures for GOFC-GOLD. During its 6 years of operation, the GOFC-GOLD ExComm has had little turnover. Several members of the ExComm expressed the desire to step down from their positions of responsibility and the need for procedures to be in place to ensure successful continuity of the panel. Positions requiring consideration include the Chair, Vice Chair and one Fire IT Co-leader. It was agreed that the ExComm will first address changes for those positions where new candidates have been identified. The need was also recognized to create roles for those members stepping down from the ExComm to ensure their continued engagement with the panel.

- Michael Brady informed the meeting that GOFC project office had prepared a spreadsheet for tracking member status. Also, the draft revised GOFC-GOLD management organization document was circulated. This document (an update of that contained in the 1999 strategy document) is intended to be an appendix in the 2005 strategy document. Olga Krankina pointed out that the document should include the role of the Regional Networks. The Project Office will also begin preparing terms of reference and statements of qualification for the key ExComm positions.

8. Any Other Business

- Next teleconference is planned for 17 November 2005 at 10:30 EST.

GOFC-GOLD Project Office