

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 16 February 2006

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, Chris Schmutliius, Kathleen Neumann, Reuben Sessa, Johann Goldammer, Garik Gutman, Alan Belward, Olga Krankina, Murugi Larsen

Highlights and Action Items

- Revised 2005 strategy document presented at recent GTOS steering meeting
- Specification sheets for land cover and fire products prepared for CEOS report to UNFCCC
- Third and final IGOL plenary meeting to be held next week in Beijing
- GOFC-GOLD is leading and contributing to eight tasks in GEO task list matrix
- GOFC-GOLD invited to participate in planning for FAO Forest Resource Assessment 2010
- Global fire early warning system to be proposed at upcoming conference
- Preparations on track for GOFC-GOLD symposium on forest and land cover observation

Details

1. GTOS/G3OS

- Steering meeting results: material from the meeting posted on the GTOS website: <http://www.fao.org/gtos/meetGTOS3.html>. Meeting discussed two new panels. The coastal panel has been confirmed, while the biodiversity panel team is to prepare a feasibility evaluation. John Townshend expressed concern on the balance of activities between panels and GTOS - panels should be consulted before activities are assigned, e.g. conventions. Reuben Sessa mentioned that a preliminary report has been circulated for review and the final report will be circulated next week. There are plans to hold a technical meeting with panel chairs in April to address their activities. Will try to involve ISCU and UNESCO at this meeting.
- TOPC – upcoming meeting will be attended by Michael Brady. Alan Belward stated that TOPC will not have a chair effective end of March.
- EO product specification sheets for CEOS: Six GCOS satellite requirement sheets from GOFC have been submitted and added to the CEOS report. Still require additional information on continuous fields from Matt Hansen to complete the document. Report provides GOFC with opportunity to take lead for specifying land cover and fire variables. Alan Belward mentioned that the sheets can be revised further. Additions can be added to the final document in April after the land cover IT meeting.
- Status of IGOL: third and final plenary meeting to be held next week in Beijing in late February. John Townshend added that the final document should be ready prior to the meeting. The following week an IGOL meeting on agriculture sponsored by FAO and NASA will be held at FAO.

2. GEO

- Task list matrix submission: during GTOS steering committee meeting breakout group on GEO, GOFC was assigned eight tasks and offered to lead a maximum of four. Michael Brady pointed out that at present GOFC could lead only one of the four tasks, while the others will require additional funds. The task list matrix with assigned tasks was distributed. GOFC and GTOS recognized in GEO summary. By mid March GEO will contact organizations that will lead tasks. GOFC tasks in land cover and fire. Some will require further specification and a few are incorrect stated. The information on tasks is available on the GEO website. A final copy will be circulated. There is need to discuss the tasks with the other countries and organizations that have also offered to lead.
- Community of Practice for Forest Observations: Michael Brady also met with FRA group at FAO and briefed them on the GEO CoP of forest observations. They expressed interest in the CoP and involving GOFC in the FRA 2010 planning.

3. Fire IT Update

- EWC III meeting and fire proposal: Johann Goldammer received notification from the EWC organizers that fire proposal will be presented at meeting. 130 proposals have been submitted for endorsement by UN ISDR. 14 have been selected, 2 of these on fire. There will be two side events, one of which is for the fire early warning proposal. Funding for EW not guaranteed, but meeting will ask countries to share the cost.
- Chris Justice writing a proposal to NASA for START. Geostationary workshop to be held this year. Johann Goldammer has a meeting at FAO on fire thematic input for FRA 2010.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Jena IT symposium plans: Main speakers and most participants have confirmed participation. Travel funding being provided by CFS, START, and Garik Gutman just informed the meeting that NASA will fund four participants. GTOS has also been approached. Chris Schullius stated that the Jena office will provide funding for some of the participants and also cover some of the costs during the symposium. Kathleen Neumann is waiting for confirmation from some participants. Michael Brady and John Townshend mentioned that the GOFC-GOLD revised strategy document was completed and presented at the GTOS SC. They requested that the strategy be followed for upcoming IT and RN activities.
- Working group on tropical deforestation monitoring: David Skole is preparing a background document to be used at the workshop. John Townshend has provided a downloadable copy of the publication "Tropical Deforestation and Climate Change" in which a summary of the Washington Workshop on "Remote Sensing Analysis of Tropical Deforestation and Baselines for Carbon Crediting and Biodiversity" can be found:
http://www.ipam.org.br/publicacoes/?session_id=5ddc06c08d3c2cc3f4bade97a4a21a29.
- Results of FAO/GTOS meeting on harmonization of land use legends: Kathleen Neumann attended the meeting (<http://www.fao.org/gtos/meetLUW1.html>). An abstract on the meeting will be circulated. Next meeting to be held at the end of this year.

5. Regional Networks

- Plans for regional network meeting at Jena in progress. Letters of understanding and support have been sent for all confirmed participants that require funding from CFS and START.
- START fund update: Kathleen Landauer has received feedback on the land cover and fire needs. John Townshend mentioned that NASA has encouraged START to re-submit proposal for funding GOFC-GOLD Regional Network technical support. START revising the proposal.
- Olga Krankina requested funding for 5 participants to attend the NERIN meeting on 8th July 2006. This will be discussed further with START and CFS.

6. Any Other Business

- GOFC at IGARSS 2006, 31 July – 4 August, 2006: GOFC will have a booth at this symposium.
- GEOLAND meeting on European integrated project held in Jena
- ESA meeting held in Rome on forest monitoring. Chris Schullius will send agendas for the GEOLAND and ESA meetings
- GMES still discussing possibility of holding a meeting on oceans, hazards, disasters and European land cover monitoring.
- Next meeting to be held on 16 March 2006.