

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 16 March 2006

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Chris Justice, Chris Schmallius, Martin Herold, Kathleen Neumann, David Skole, John Latham, Reuben Sessa, Johann Goldammer, Garik Gutman, Alan Belward, Kathleen Landauer, Olga Krankina, Murugi Larsen

Highlights and Action Items

- Phillippe Mayaux appointed as GOFC-GOLD Vice Chair
- GOFC-GOLD reviewing terrestrial ECV specifications for GCOS/CEOS report
- Fire IT assists with global fire report in FAO FRA 2005, planning begins for 2010 FRA
- Planned completed for Jena Land Cover Symposium
- Espen Volden of ESA appointed as a member of the LC-IT

Details

1. GTOS/G3OS

- GTOS update: John Latham reported on GTOS activities. GTOS providing financial support for the TOPC meeting. TCO meeting to be held 10 to 11th April 2006. Ricardo Valentini is the TCO chair. GTOS sponsor and panel chairs will have a one day meeting to be held in Paris in June. A day will be decided on later. The GTOS steering committee meeting report is ready and waiting final approval from Berrien Moore before distribution. Josef Cihlar's report has been accepted by SBSTA. John Latham to prepare a presentation for the LC-IT symposium in Jena.
- TOPC – steering meeting; EO product specification sheets for CEOS: Alan Belward gave an update on the meeting, which will be held on 28 to 29th March 2006. Michael Brady to attend meeting and report on GOFC Jena meeting results with an emphasis on panel commitment to the GCOS IP and review of selected terrestrial ECV specifications. CEOS to submit their supplementary report at the COP12 meeting in November 2006. Concern was raised that there could be duplication and/or different interpretation for the same variables by different organizations. Need to finalize who takes responsibility for biomass during the Jena and TOPC meetings. Confirmation of institutional involvement has to be added to the plan. Phillippe Mayaux's presentation at Jena meeting will focus on the gaps – biomass being one. It was pointed out that biomass is a big component in tropical forests monitoring efforts. Phillippe Mayaux was nominated to replace Alan Belward as vice chair. It was strongly suggested that the vice chair should provide strategic guidance to the regional networks. Michael Brady to circulate the vice chair's ToR.
- Status of IGOL: John Townshend informed the meeting that a successful plenary meeting was held in Beijing. A report is being prepared but will not be ready for the IGOS partners meeting. Have deficiency in the in situ information. There is also a need to improve the socio-economic section.

2. GEO

- Task list matrix submission: GOFC-GOLD to lead in some of the tasks. Waiting for tasks to be assigned to one of four standing committees.
- Community of Practice for Forest Observations: Michael Brady gave an update of recent user Interface meeting. No representative from GEO Secretariat will be attending the Jena meeting.

3. Fire IT Update

- EWC III meeting preparations and fire proposal – Johann Goldammer informed the meeting that there will be a high attendance from governments and therefore will have a good visibility. He will be attending meetings at FAO next week to discuss strategy for wildland fires assessment. Remote sensing one of the tools to be used. Also involved in the FRA 2010 – global fire assessment. Have background information on fire issues and FAO is preparing a summary.

- Other news and planned activities: the next Geostationary meeting is being planned. Chris Justice mentioned that it will either be held in Germany or Britain. Ivan Csiszar planning to hold a meeting in India. Chris Justice to send a presentation on fire IT perspective for the RNs meeting in Jena.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Jena IT symposium plans and participants: Chris Schmuilius gave an update on the planning for symposium. Preparations still in progress. Have had good response from donors.
- Symposium agendas and documents: finalize documents for all the meetings and circulate to the participants.
- Other LC activities: Chris Schmuilius nominated Espen Volden of ESA to be a member of the Land Cover IT. He is responsible for the ESA forest monitoring project and has experience with GMES. ESA has also shown interest in extending funding to the LC-IT project office in Jena. Executive Committee Members approved the nomination.

5. Regional Networks

- Agenda and documents for regional networks meeting at Jena: documents to be finalized and distributed to participants.
- START fund update and new proposal: Kathleen Landauer stated that Chris Justice has agreed to use some of the funds allocated to S. Asia meeting for the NERIN meeting. Kathleen Landauer asked for more information on the planned LC-IT meeting to be held in Mongolia.
- Other network plans: plan to discuss network issues during the RNs meeting in Jena.

6. Any Other Business

- Next teleconference is scheduled for 27 April 2006

GOFC-GOLD Project Office