

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 27 April 2006

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Chris Justice, Chris Schmallius, Martin Herold, David Skole, Reuben Sessa, Philippe Mayaux, Johann Goldammer, Garik Gutman, Kathleen Landauer, and Olga Krankina and Ivan Csiszar

Highlights and Action Items

- Philippe Mayaux welcomed as new GOFC-GOLD Vice Chair; Thanks extended to outgoing Vice Chair, Alan Belward.
- Olga Krankina appointed to the Executive Committee to represent GOFC-GOLD Regional Networks.
- GOFC-GOLD becomes a formal member of the Terrestrial Observation Panel for Climate.
- With GEO 2006 work plan approved, implementation of eight GEOSS tasks now underway.
- Global wildland fire assessment to be included in FRA 2010.
- Planning initiated for South Asia Regional Network, led by India.
- Land Cover Implementation Team produces substantial results at Jena Symposium in March.
- ESA to continue supporting Land Cover Project Office.
- Regional Networks considering joint proposal to establish a global validation network of test sites.

Details

1. Executive Committee Matters

- Membership – The Executive Committee welcomed Philippe Mayaux to his first meeting as Vice Chair. Michael Brady explained that the position now includes oversight responsibility for the GOFC-GOLD Regional Networks (RN). Members also expressed appreciation to Olga Krankina, who was appointed at the recent RN meeting at Jena as the Executive Committee RN representative.
- Teleconference protocols: Michael Brady explained that the scope and activities of GOFC-GOLD have been increasing and this is adding substantial detail to monthly teleconferences. To keep control over time, it was agreed that the teleconferences should focus on the following priorities: 1) decisions and endorsements, 2) financial matters; 3) reports on recent and planned events, and 4) working group matters. Members are encouraged to continue technical discussions immediately following the meeting.

2. GTOS/G3OS

- GTOS update: Reuben Sessa reported that the GTOS biennial report for 2004/05 is in final preparations. The TCO panel plans to hold a meeting from 26-27 June. A representative of the Committee will be contacted shortly to participate. The GTOS Panel Chair meeting will be held 28-29 June at ISCU, Paris. A search is underway for a consultant to assist GTOS to develop the framework for standards related to terrestrial observations (ref. UNFCCC SBSTA 23).
- TOPC: Michael Brady reported on the results of the steering meeting, which was held on 28-29 March 2006. The GOFC Jena meeting resulted in a commitment to provide scientific authority for selected terrestrial ECV product specification sheets, which are to be included in a supplementary report at the COP12 SBSTA meeting in November 2006 (note that GTOS is preparing a longer term framework). John Townshend noted the importance of biomass product specification and that GOFC-GOLD should address this matter cooperatively in the upcoming TCO meeting.

3. GEO

- Task AG-06-03 on land cover change: Martin Herold reported on the GEO Science and Technology Committee meeting on 19-20 April at UNESCO, Paris. On behalf of the task co leads (GOFC-GOLD and USGS), he presented an outline to the Committee on how the task will be

implemented. The presentation was well received and members responded positively, including Steven Briggs of ESA.

- Other GEO task contributions: Michael Brady and Martin Herold presented a task management document and explained the key issues. It was agreed that a priority step is to make written contact with the leads and co-leads of all eight tasks that GOF-C-GOLD is involved. Also, points of contact for each task within GOLD-GOLD are being designated and respective working groups formed. Reuben Sessa will organize a telcon next week with GOF-C-GOLD and GTOS Secretariat regarding GEO task management and coordination with panels.

4. Fire IT Update

- EWC III meeting and global FDRS proposal – Johann Goldammer reported that the March meeting was well attended by governments and international organizations and the proposal side event received good visibility. A report on the conference will be issued shortly. He will attend the FRA Kotka V meeting in June to discuss plans for a global wildland fire assessment in FRA 2010 using remote sensing among other tools.
- Other news and planned activities: Ivan Csiszar reported on the fire meeting held in March at the National Remote Sensing Agency of India. The GOF-C-GOLD Fire program was presented and interest was expressed to establish a regional network for South Asia. A formal request from GOF-C-GOLD was discussed. Chris Justice reported that the next Geostationary meeting is being planned for 4-6 December at Darmstadt. He also described plans for a Redlatif Latin America regional fire network meeting planned for early September at Cartagena, which will require funds from the START budget. The next Fire IT planning meeting is being considered as a side event at the 4th International Wildfire Conference in May 2007.

5. Land Cover IT Update

- Jena IT symposium: Chris Schmuilius, David Skole and Martin Herold provided an overview of the symposium, including the successful outcomes from the three workshops and the IT meeting. The symposium substantially addressed each of the new international activities that GOF-C-GOLD is contributing towards, including UNFCCC, GEO, GCOS IP, and the FAO-FRA. A draft report has been prepared from the workshop on tropical deforestation monitoring. Reports on the other events are underway. The LC-IT expressed their appreciation for the significant support for the symposium provided by GOF-C-GOLD sponsoring partners including FSU, CFS, CSA, NASA, START, ESA, private companies, and others. Importantly, ESA announced that it will continue to provide support to the LC-IT Office at Jena.
- Other LC activities: Dave Skole observed that regarding the post 2012 commitment period, there will likely be extreme reluctance to include protocols in LULUCF activities. Many organizations are switching focus from compensated reductions in developing world towards better GHG management in developed world. Also, the question of permanence in land cover is becoming a substantive concern, particularly where there are risks of wildfire. In this regard there is better need to develop fire risk assessments, such as is being done by the Fire IT. Plans were also discussed for involvement in the planning activities for FRA 2010. Michael Brady explained that he has met with the FRA team at FAO several times over the past year and expressed the interest from GOF-C-GOLD in supporting FRA 2010. A key planning event is the Kotka V meeting in June at Finland. John Latham will discuss attendance at the meeting with the FRA group. As well, he will coordinate the GEO task involving forest assessment (AG-06-04), which will include FRA, GOF-C-GOLD and others. Johann Goldammer is also in discussions with the FRA group regarding the fire theme component of FRA 2010 and will also attend the Kotka meeting. Chris Schmuilius has positive discussions with the FRA group regarding the use of radar data in the 2010 assessment. Philippe Mayaux will meet with the FRA group in early May on JRC matters. He observed that the

FRA 2010 will include an independent analysis of forest cover using remote sensed data to compliment the national in-situ data provided by countries.

6. Regional Networks (RN)

- RN meeting at Jena: Comments from attendees (Brady, Krankina and Landauer) were positive. Nomination of Olga Krankina as RN representative should promote improved communication among RNs, ITs and Excomm. Curtis Woodcock's suggestion was well received for a joint proposal to establish a global validation network of test sites. Michael Brady is drafting report on RN meeting and will be circulated to participants for comments.
- START fund update: Kathleen Landauer stated that use of the existing START funds has been extended to the end of 2006. She is updating the budget status and responding to various funding requests for this summer.
- Other network issues and plans: Garik Gutman reported that NASA will assist with travel support for several participants at the Mongolia conference in June. Philippe Mayaux supported the need to further develop a RN in South America and mentioned that JRC may be able to assist, given its collaborative activities in the region. Michael Brady pointed out that GOFC-GOLD has yet to begin its co-lead role in GEO task EC-06-07 related to RNs and capacity building. A request was made to GTOS for guidance on how to proceed. David Skole emphasized the need to coordinate RN activities between GOFC-GOLD and GLCN at FAO, which also has a series of RNs that focus on land cover. Martin Herold reported on plans for the June conference at Mongolia. He explained that the conference will not include a formal East Asia RN meeting, but that East Asia RN development will be discussed among the many participants from East Asia.

7. Any Other Business

- Next teleconference is scheduled for 18 May 2006

8. List of Documents Circulated

- GEO Science and Technology committee TOR
- Presentation given to the GEO STC in Paris last week
- Current draft agenda and list of invitees for Mongolia regional workshop
- GEO Task Management Matrix
- TOPC meeting minutes

GOFC-GOLD Project Office