

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 18 May 2006

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

Highlights and Action Items

- GOFC-GOLD to participate in series of GCOS/CEOS meetings to finalize report on ECV product specification for COP 12-SBSTA 25.
- Eight GEO tasks are underway and a management matrix is being used to coordinate and track progress by GOFC-GOLD and GTOS.
- Fire Implementation Team sets busy schedule of workshops and meetings.
- Land Cover Implementation Team completed draft report on monitoring for tropical deforestation avoided and prepares inputs to UNFCCC meetings at Bonn, Germany in May.
- GOFC-GOLD invited to participate in planning for 2010 FAO Forest Resource Assessment.
- GOFC-GOLD is co sponsoring a land cover conference in Mongolia, which will include participants from the now-evolving East Asia Regional Network.

Details

1. GTOS/G3OS

- GTOS update: Reuben Sessa reported that the TCO panel plans to hold a meeting from 26-27 June. As this is the first meeting since TCO reorganization, other panels will not attend. The GTOS Panel Chair meeting will be held 28-29 June at ISCU, Paris.
- TOPC: John Townshend reported that GCOS and CEOS are holding a joint meeting at Geneva in late May to review the draft supplementary report to be presented at the COP12 SBSTA meeting in November 2006. Ivan Csiszar will attend to represent GOFC-GOLD in refining the terrestrial ECV product specification sheets. Two subsequent review meeting are also planned in July and September.

2. GEO

- Michael Brady and Martin Herold reviewed the updated task management document and observed that GEO task activity is increasing as the 2006 work plan is reaching mid year. Points of contact (PoC) within GOFC-GOLD have been assigned for each of the eight tasks. Michael Brady has sent messages to each of the overall task lead PoCs and to date has received responses from four. Refer to the management matrix document for additional progress details. Stefano Mazilli explained the procedures being formulated by the GTOS Secretariat regarding GEO task management and coordination with panels. The procedures will be finalized shortly.
- Members were pleased with the management matrix and suggested that it should be used to guide future Executive Committee teleconferences.

3. Fire IT Update

- Global FDRS proposal – Johann Goldammer reported that the proposal was presented at an ASEAN regional fire meeting at Hanoi in early May. Regional sub projects are being considered where support may be available.
- Chris Justice reported that the next Geostationary meeting is being planned for 4-6 December at Darmstadt. Invitations are being prepared and the Project Office is assisting.
- Ivan Csiszar reported on the following Redlatif Latin America fire network activities: 1) The network is finishing the AQL2004 (Burned Areas in Latin America in 2004) project. The MODIS-based product and its validation results will be presented at the XII SELPER (Latin American Remote Sensing Society) International Symposium in Cartagena, Colombia on 26-29 September

2006; 2) The network is considering applying for funds to support continuing activities from the Iberoamerican CYTED (Science and Technology for the Development) program; and 3) Emilio Chuvieco is planning to step down as network coordinator. A new coordinator from Latin America is being sought.

- Other news and planned activities: The next Fire IT planning meeting is being considered as a side event at the 4th International Wildfire Conference in May 2007.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Jena IT symposium: A draft report has been prepared from the workshop on tropical deforestation monitoring. Reports on the Boreal workshop, land cover meeting and regional network meeting are underway. Attendees are asked to send any materials from break-out group discussions to Martin Herold.
- Other LC activities: Martin Herold will attend a workshop at Blumenau, Germany on the UNFCCC-SBSTA tropical deforestation topic. Results of the meeting will be presented at the Bonn SBSTA 24 meeting later in May. He also reported that two abstracts were submitted for the ESSP conference to be held at Beijing in November 2006. Plans were also discussed for involvement in the planning activities for FRA 2010. Michael Brady was in contact with Mette Loyche Wilke, the FRA Manager, to discuss participation at the upcoming Kotka V planning meeting in June at Finland. The Kotka meeting is restricted to national FRA members. However, GOFC-GOLD will be invited to participate in a subsequent FRA 2010 methods meeting to be held in the fall of 2006. 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. Philippe Mayaux reported that Fredric Achard recently met with the FRA group and was impressed with their expression of interest to collaborate with other groups on FRA 2010 planning. Related to this, The FAO-FRA group now acts as the PoC for the GEO task involving forest assessment (AG-06-04), which is co-led by GOFC-GOLD and USGS. David Skole reported on a recent UNDP-GEF meeting in New York. The GEF is addressing deforestation avoided issues and is interested in the work of GOFC-GOLD in this area. He plans to send the GEF the draft Jena report and suggested that they might entertain an unsolicited proposal from GOFC-GOLD, which would focus on pilot studies for deforestation monitoring in tropical regions.
- **Regional Networks (RN)**
- RN meeting at Jena: Michael Brady is drafting report on RN meeting. It will be included in the Land Cover meeting report.
- START fund update: Kathleen Landauer stated that use of the existing START funds has been extended to the end of 2006. She has updated the budget status and responded to various funding requests for the remainder of the year including meetings for SafNet, Redlatif, NERIN Tomsk, Geostationary Darmstadt and South Asia RN India.
- Other network issues and plans: Martin Herold reported on plans for the 8-9 June conference at Mongolia. He explained that the conference will now also include an informal meeting of East Asia RN participants from Mongolia, China, Japan, eastern Russia and South Korea. Philippe Mayaux reported that planning is underway for a West Africa Regional Network workshop to be held in late 2006. The JRC can provide support for the workshop if needed. David Skole will try to obtain and circulate documents from the previous West Africa meeting.

5. Any Other Business

- Next teleconference is scheduled for 15 June 2006

6. List of Documents Circulated

- Updated GEO Task Management Matrix, 17 May