

## GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 15 June 2006

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Chris Schmallius, Johann Goldammer, Garik Gutman, Kathleen Landauer, Ivan Csiszar, Jacquelin Sambale, Stefano Mazilli and Erin Naydenov

### Highlights and Action Items

- Reformulated GTOS Terrestrial Carbon Observing panel holds first meeting.
- GOFC-GOLD contributes to EO product specifications in GCOS-CEOS supplementary report.
- Work on eight GEO work plan tasks now underway.
- NASA supports GOFC-GOLD Regional Networks through START.
- New East Asia Regional Network developed further at recent Mongolia conference.

### Details

#### 1. General

- Michael Brady introduced Ms. Erin Naydenov to the Executive Committee. She is the new Project Officer at the GOFC-GOLD Project Office in Edmonton.

#### 2. GTOS/G3OS

- GTOS update: Michael Brady indicated that Reuben Sessa is now the GTOS representative for the monthly teleconferences. John Townshend Michael Brady and John Townshend will discuss coordination with GTOS on GEO work plan issues prior to the panel meeting. The Terrestrial Carbon Observation (TCO) panel will hold a meeting in late June. Stefano Mazilli reported that the TCO Chair, Antonio Bombelli, will coordinate a teleconference to seek input from the other panels during the meeting. Michael Brady indicated that GOFC-GOLD is interested in the TCO approach to biomass mapping.
- GCOS-CEOS EO report update: Michael Brady reported that a supplementary report including the product specification sheets will be presented at the COP 12 SBSTA24 in Nairobi from November 6-17th. Ivan Csiszar reported that the product specification sheets are out for public comment and posted at <http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/gcoshome.html>, minor revisions are expected. John Townshend is leading the terrestrial review activities, which includes several meetings before November. Michael Brady and John Townshend will attend the Montreal CEOS/GCOS meeting July 11-13<sup>th</sup>. John Townshend will attend a meeting in Lahoya in parallel with CEOS. Jacqueline Sambale presented GOFC-GOLD at a German national GCOS event in Frankfurt.

#### 3. GEO

- Michael Brady discussed the updated GEO Task Management Matrix. Stefano Mazilli has been tracking the GTOS tasks and Michael Brady and Martin Herold have been tracking the 8 GOFC-GOLD tasks. Martin Herold and Michael Brady have initiated contact with the points of contact (PoC) for all 8 tasks. The tasks are ready to be handed over to the focal point individuals within GOFC-GOLD. Specifically the Fire IT people including Johann Goldammer, Chris Schmallius and Ivan Csiszar. **Action:** for upcoming GEO committee meetings GOFC-GOLD must decide if members will participate or have GTOS represent GOFC-GOLD. Tasks where GOFC-GOLD is a co lead will wait for guidance from the other co leads before proceeding.
- Martin Herold is making good progress and has contacted the task co leads for the tasks in which he is the focal point. Michael Brady outlined how tasks AG-06-04 and US-06-02 are linked to the FAO Forest Resource Assessment (FRA). For the 2010 assessment, an initial planning meeting was held mid June at Kotka, Finland. As this is a national level meeting GOFC-GOLD was not invited to participate. The US-06-02 co lead from Finland, Erky Tompo, is attending Kotka and will report on activities. **Action:** the project office will distribute the report to executive committee members. A subsequent planning meeting will take place in September 2006 in which GOFC-GOLD will be invited to participate. Mette Loyche Wilke is leading the FRA. Task AR-06-09 was discussed.

Stefano Mazilli reported that John Townshend is the lead and John Latham is a contributor. John Townshend commented that the task involves three separate issues, global Landsat coverage, continuity on Landsat coverage, and future direction. As such he suggested a more detailed description for task AR-06-09. **Action:** Project office will revise task AR-06-09 and to submit to the task co-lead and PoC, Larry Pettinger at the USGS.

- Michael Brady will attend the Architecture and Data committee meeting in Seattle, 20-21 July. John Latham will also be invited to attend. John Townshend expressed his concern that GOF-C-GOLD not put a disproportionate amount of effort into GEO. Michael Brady suggested that the GEO information distributed for teleconferences be limited to the two page management matrix. Individuals can then request more information if needed.

#### **4. Fire IT Update**

- Ivan Csiszar reported that the geostationary meeting will be December 4-6 in Darmstadt, Germany. Elaine Prins is the organizer and details are posted on the website. Currently there is no Japanese participation.
- GFMC and UNISDR activities: Johann Goldammer reported that the FAO will report on fire assessment to the country representatives on the current status of discussions. Consolidated recommendations and a draft fire management code, including a code of conduct and a code of ethics, are expected from FAO by the end of July. The recommendations would include what the strategy would look like and how the global wildland fire assessment could be done, either as a part of the FRA 2010 or as an independent exercise. The final discussions will be held at the FAO in July. The recommendations will be posted on the website and open for public comments, an intranet discussion forum may also be created. Johann Goldammer reported on the status of the global early warning proposal is uncertain. Partners involved are from Canada, Australia, Spain and the European weather service, and GOF-C-GOLD. The regional wildland fire network with Pauline Dube is planning one activity in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Other recent and planned activities (SafNet, RedLatif): Ivan Csiszar reported that the SafNet meeting is tentatively planned for July 24-28 in Mozambique. Pauline Dube is the main contact. RedLatif is working on a 4 year proposal to the CYTED (Science and Technology for the Development) program. Activities would include burnt area mapping, fire mapping and risk assessment monitoring. Ivan Csiszar reported on his trip to India to establish a South Asian regional network. He will be visited at UMD by a forest survey representative, and will provide an update at the next teleconference. Richard Smith of the Australian aid agency has approved an Indonesian mapping proposal.

#### **5. Land Cover IT Update**

- Chris Schullius reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> version of the Jena IT symposium report is almost complete, it still requires boreal content. Michael Brady is working on the regional network meeting report.
- Tropical deforestation monitoring: Michael Brady reported for Martin Herold that the working group had a teleconference in late May. A draft report has been produced for submission to the SBSTA meeting in Nairobi associated with COP. There will be a meeting at FAO in Rome August 30 and September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Other LC activities: Chris Schullius, Martin Herold, and Jacquelin Sambale attended a 1 day technical design meeting for the Globcover project. Chris Schullius reported many advances have been made including improved software. The Belgium University is leading the classification system, primarily using LCCS to produce an intermediate product that merges several classes. This 24 class system is designed for the climate community. There was a discussion on change detection; Fredric Achard is against change detection for the Globcover product versus GLC 2000. Chris Schullius commented that both products must address change detection as the public will try to make a comparison regardless. A review will take place July 26 in France, Martin Herold and

Jacquelin Sambale will participate. Martin Herold is co-organizing a session at the EARSEL land cover meeting in Bonn from September 29-30. Chris Schnullius and Martin Herold will attend the Missoula vegetation meeting. Chris Schnullius has received 3 years of support for the Jena land cover office from ESA; however the travel and staffing budget has been significantly reduced.

## **6. Regional Networks**

- John Townshend reported that the Mongolia conference and East Asia network workshop were successful. Network countries were well represented with participants from China, Mongolia, Japan and S. Korea. A report is being prepared. John Townshend proposed that the next meeting take place in Japan and that the new network could contribute to best practices for validation.
- Kathleen Landauer reported that NASA recently announced funding for START/GOFC-GOLD for 3 years. Garik Gutman indicated that the first year of funding would be less than the later 2 years as funds have already been provided for recent activities. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer will report funding in detail at the next teleconference once she has the final contract.
- Garik Gutman asked how GOFC-GOLD will support Olga Krankina in her new role as RN representative. Michael Brady responded that the Project Office is considering support and resources to support this activity and that this will be defined in the Jena RN workshop report. There will be a NERIN workshop in November following the Tomsk workshop in July. The NERIN workshop would have a broader focus than Tomsk and will include fire and land cover. **Action:** Ivan Csiszar to put this workshop on the schedule.

## **7. Any Other Business**

- Next teleconference is scheduled for 20 July 2006

## **8. List of Documents Circulated**

- draft GOFC-GOLD ExComm participation and events schedule
- Updated GEO Task Management Matrix, 14 June

GOFC-GOLD Project Office