

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 20 July 2006

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Chris Schmillius, Johann Goldammer, Kathleen Landauer, Hassan Virj, Ivan Csiszar, Marin Herold, Reuben Sessa, Olga Krankina and Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- Draft fire management code of the Global Wildland Fire Network now available for review.
- GOFC-GOLD to participate in upcoming planning activities for the FAO FRA 2010 assessment.
- Working relations established with new GTOS panel on terrestrial carbon observations (TCO).
- Canadian team provides expertise on high latitude aspects of terrestrial ECVs at Montreal meeting on CEOS response document to GCOS Implementation Plan.
- Report completed on tropical deforestation monitoring practices and plans underway for dissemination to UNFCCC bodies.
- Land Cover Team wins bid for FAO-FRA remote sensing study using data from the TerraSAR-X.
- Recent Mongolia conference paves way for East Asia Regional Network.
- Tomsk workshop brings together the Northern Eurasian Regional Network and the Russian Academy of Sciences to plan the Siberian Integrated Regional Study.

Details

1. Fire IT Update

- GFMC and UNISDR activities: Johann Goldammer reported on a meeting at the FAO in Rome where the draft fire management code (of the Global Wildland Fire Network) was discussed. The draft is posted on the web, and has been distributed in the Global Wildland Fire Bulletin for public discussion. Johann Goldammer invited GOFC-GOLD executive members to comment on the draft. The code can be accessed through the following link:
(<http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/forestry2/index.jsp?siteId=6880&sitetreeId=35488&langId=1&geoId=0>)
- Geostationary meeting: Ivan Csiszar reported that they are still seeking representation from stakeholders. Ivan Csiszar has requested that Anna Talbert of EUMETSAT send an announcement to the CTMS members and are currently waiting for feedback.
- Other Fire IT activities: Johann Goldammer provided an update from Mette Loyche Wilke of FAO FRA on the outcomes of the Kotka meeting. One recommendation is for a remote sensing study as a part of the FRA 2010. Johann Goldammer will investigate this issue further to determine if this includes fire or other forest cover. Michael Brady reported that Mette Loyche Wilke confirmed that a planning meeting for the remote sensing study will be held in the fall of 2006 and that GOFC-GOLD is recognized as having a role for both fire and land cover. Johann Goldammer reported that FRA suggested that the fire reporting be done at an earlier stage, before the FRA 2010, to ensure that the country focal points have that information and could respond accordingly. The thematic/regional fire reports through the Global Wildland Fire Network and the GOFC-GOLD fire inventory and assessment should be completed by 2008. Johann Goldammer suggested that a side meeting be added to the Darmstadt meeting for the fire group to discuss further details. Ivan Csiszar will request Elaine Prins add this to the meeting agenda.
- Ivan Csiszar reported that the SAFNet meeting has been postponed until 2-6 Oct 2006, due to funding issues and getting appropriate speakers. The RedLatif meeting will be held in Cartagena, Columbia. The project on burned area in Latin American has put together a conference paper, which includes the RedLatif network and its validation results.

2. GTOS/G3OS

- GTOS update: Reuben Sessa reported on the TCO panel meeting lead by Ricardo Valentini. It was held on 26-27 June to develop a strategy document and steering committee. The meeting report is

being reviewed and will likely be available by the end of July. The GTOS panel chair meeting was held June 28. John Townshend reported that the meeting was valuable with much discussion about the interconnections between the various panels and GTOS. The overlap of TCO and GOFCC-GOLD activities was discussed. TCO is focusing primarily on in-situ observations, and are able to take global leadership in this area. John Townshend felt that GOFCC-GOLD and TCO should be able to work together on many activities. Another TCO meeting will be held in Congo from the 23-27 October where biomass and the CarboAfrica project will be discussed. John Townshend recommended that GOFCC-GOLD be represented at this meeting. Reuben Sessa reported that the GTOS biennial report is completed and is available on the GTOS website:

<http://www.fao.org/gtos/gtospub/pub40.html> Hard cover copies are available upon request. The GTOS website is also hosting discussion forums. One forum is on the new strategic framework for GTOS, including the formulation of a framework for further development of standards for terrestrial ECV's. The forum link is <http://dwms.fao.org/gtos-sp/>, access codes have to be requested to Reuben Sessa (reuben.sessa@fao.org). GOFCC-GOLD will be asked for inputs on the ECV's. The October deforestation workshop of the UNFCCC SBSTA has limited space for attendants. There will be only 1 allocation for GTOS, Ruth Defries will likely attend and provide the GOFCC-GOLD deforestation report.

- GCOS/CEOS reports: The second review meeting for the GCOS supplementary report and the CEOS response report, was held mid July at Montreal. John Townshend is leading the terrestrial component. Ivan Csiszar led the terrestrial activities the Montreal meeting. John Townshend reported that the Montreal meeting produced a shorter more concise response report. John Townshend and Ivan Csiszar are looking for additional inputs on the ECV's to ensure that there is a sensible overall response. Michael Brady organized a team of five Canadian experts to participate at the meeting, which was helpful particularly for high latitude aspects. Further input on ECV's is being sought from other space agencies and experts. This report is CEOS's formal response to the GCOS implementation plan and will be presented at the November COP. The final review meeting will follow the CEOS strategic implementation team meeting this September in La Hoya, USA.

3. GEO

- GOFCC-GOLD task management status: Michael Brady reviewed the general progress of the 8 GEO work plan tasks (report pre distributed). He will attend the Architecture and Data Committee (ADC) meeting in July at Seattle to represent GOFCC-GOLD as co-lead on the three GEO tasks whose progress is to be reported. Martin Herold reported that there has been communication in order to initiate and organize task AG0604. This task is lead by Mette Loyche Wilke and relates to FRA 2010. Michael Brady will prepare a presentation on this task status for the ADC meeting. Progress has also been made on task A0603, The first meeting is planned for the fall (5-8 December has been suggested) and will be hosted by the European Environmental Agency. The 2006 tasks will be reported at the upcoming GEO plenary in late November. Michael Brady reported that there are still a number of tasks to be handed over to the focal points. Discussions with Olga Krankina and Philippe Mayaux are still required to request their involvement as focal points for regional network tasks. Michael Brady and Johann Goldammer to discuss the GEO fire task DI0613 further.
- GTOS task management status: Reuben Sessa reported that a panel chair meeting document prepared by Stefano Mazilli, in which the GTOS activities are summarized, will be circulated. Martin Herold reported that GTOS is following the format of the GOFCC-GOLD GEO task management matrix. Tasks will also be coordinated based on the response of the newly released draft GEO 2007-2009 work plan.
- GEO plans: John Townshend commented on the manner in which the GEOSEC has modified tasks without consulting task leaders. This has become a burden to those that have undertaken task

related responsibilities. John Townshend suggested that this comment be put forward by Michael Brady at the GEOADC meeting in July. Martin Herold reported that this concern has been communicated to the GEO secretariat in response to the GEO 2007-2009 work plan. FAO FRA have similar concerns.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Jena IT symposium reports: These are planned reports to add to the GOF-C-GOLD report series. Chris Schmutliius reported that the GOF-C-GOLD-29 boreal workshop report will likely be completed by the end of July. Martin Herold reported that the GOF-C-GOLD-26 report on emissions should be ready in August and is currently being reviewed. Michael Brady reviewed the proposed new titles to be added to the report series (pre distributed) and acknowledged general agreement among the ExComm.
- Tropical deforestation monitoring: Martin Herold reported that he has finished the technical document and will organize a working group teleconference at the end of July. The promotion and distribution of the document, future steps, and the SUBSTA workshop of 30 Aug-1 Sept will be discussed. John Townshend suggested that Alan Granger of the University of Leeds, who has analyzed tropical forest trends, be engaged in these activities. He has prepared a report commenting on the FRA reports, John Townshend will distribute the report to Martin Herold, Chris Schmutliius and Olga Krankina.
- Other LC activities: Chris Schmutliius reported that the Jena Office won a German-funded proposal for a FAO-FRA remote sensing study using data from the TerraSAR-X satellite to be launched in October, 2006. The plan is to work on 500-1000 test sites and 10,000 sampling sites in areas where there are problems with cloud cover beginning in summer 2007. Martin Herold and Chris Schmutliius will attend the FRA 2010 RS workshop in the fall in which Martin Herold is organizing a land cover breakout group. GEO task issues and land cover monitoring will be discussed. The Globcover teleconference has been postponed. There will be a half day session at the EARSEL meeting on harmonization. There will be a session at the ESSP to discuss global terrestrial monitoring. There are two presentation spots available for GOF-C-GOLD; Michael Brady will be presenting the GOF-C-GOLD land cover activities. The other spot is for a GEO presentation and is available as Martin Herold is unlikely to attend.

5. Regional Networks

- Mongolia conference report: John Townshend reported that he has a draft report prepared and will circulate it.
- START fund update and new proposal: Current START funds are being used to support several events including; the REDLatif workshop, Darmstadt geostationary workshop, Tomsk workshop, Copenhagen workshop, SAFNet workshop, the NERIN workshop in November will likely be funded. Chris Schmutliius requested START funding for a workshop - Kathleen Landauer commented that it may be possible. She will send a START funding update to the project office. Kathleen Landauer reported that the first years funding for the new NASA project is estimated at \$65 000 for workshops and \$40 000 for the RNs, the NASA paperwork has been delayed. Kathleen Landauer requested that the members compile a list of needs, and workshops that are considered the most strategic. She suggested that the networks be asked to submit proposals that include how the funding would be used and how their goals facilitate the communication and distribution of data in the network and the packaging of data for developing countries. In discussions with Pauline Dube and Carlos DeSouza, there may be other funding available for network activities; and START funds may be used as leverage. John Townshend commented that multiple sources of funding should always be considered.
- Other network issues and plans: At the Mongolia conference there was a great deal of discussion and enthusiasm about further establishing the East Asia Regional Network. John Townshend

reported that there would be Chinese resources for an office in Beijing, possibly supported by the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences; however the Chinese participants would like a plan outlining the main roles of the office with regard to the network. John Townshend commented that the Beijing office would make the most sense. Hassan Virj of START is visiting Beijing soon to discuss the Monsoon Asia Project, and will pass on information to Cong Bin Fu and Jiyuan Liu on behalf of GOFC-GOLD in support of the new network.

- Olga Krankina reported that the NERIN Tomsk workshop was successful; a new project was initiated by the Russian Academy of Sciences - Siberian Integrated Regional Study. There is a planned collaboration with the Northern Eurasian Regional Network. Olga Krankina will be writing several proposals to build current RN NELDA project by adding new validation sites using other funds. There will be a NERIN workshop at the 13-17 Nov conference in Moscow.

6. Any Other Business

- Next teleconference is scheduled for 21 September 2006, following the traditional August break.
- Michael Brady reviewed the events schedule and requested that members send the Project Office information on upcoming activities and events.

7. List of Documents Circulated

- Updated GOFC-GOLD ExComm participation and events schedule, July
- Updated GEO Task Management Matrix, July
- Draft GOFC-GOLD Report Series new titles list, 19 July

GOFC-GOLD Project Office