

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 28 September 2006**

Participants: Michael Brady, Garik Gutman, John Townshend, Chris Schmallius, Chris Justice, Marin Herold, Reuben Sessa, Philippe Mayaux, David Skole, Olga Krankina and Erin Naydenov

### **Highlights and Action Items**

- Executive Committee members express their appreciation to John Townshend as Chair of GOFC-GOLD
- Philippe Mayaux to act as interim Chair of GOFC-GOLD
- North America Land Cover Summit adopts LCCS
- Forest Community of Practice will have a side event at upcoming GEO Plenary
- The Global Fire Early Warning System to be presented at upcoming meeting of WMO Commission for Agro Meteorology
- GOFC-GOLD to submit report to UNFCCC on reducing emissions from deforestation
- Joint ESA/GOFC-GOLD side event planned at the UNFCCC COP 12 in Nairobi
- FAO global assessment of forests in 2010 to include GOFC-GOLD contributions
- Discussions underway for a Pan African Regional Networks meeting in 2007

### **Details**

#### **1. Dialogue with John Townshend**

- John Townshend has stepped down as Chair of GOFC-GOLD. He commented that he has enjoyed his time as GG Chair and feels that over the last 2-3 years GOFC has made enormous progress, and is now globally vital in terms of land and fire observations. The quality work of GG is due to the participation of some of the best specialists in the world. Like many international organizations GG is challenged with deciding what to do versus what not to do, as there is so much work that needs to be done. GOFC-GOLD has become more effective over the last couple of years in being able to focus and make a difference, due in large part to the Executive Director, whose effectiveness at providing the infrastructure for GG allows members to be effective. Organizations benefit from new leadership from time to time, in order to develop new approaches and ideas. He mentioned that he would be pleased to stay involved in GG in another capacity.
- Michael Brady expressed his appreciation to John on behalf of GG and personally. He has benefited enormously and has learned a lot working with John. He feels confident that GG will continue and make the succession successful. Chris Schmallius expressed her appreciation for all of John's support to her and Friedrich-Schiller-University, and welcomed him to the Land Cover IT as a team member. Chris Justice commented that the international progress made by GG is largely due to John's efforts in international activities. He thanked John and suggested that the group find an upcoming venue to thank John in person.
- The Vice Chair, Philippe Mayaux, will assume the role of Chair until a suitable candidate is found for the position. Succession planning will be undertaken by a working group of ExComm members. **Action:** Project Office to organize letters to recognize changes in member status and organize succession working group.

#### **2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters**

- GTOS update, meetings, requests for GOFIC inputs: Reuben Sessa reported that John Latham attended the North American Land Cover Summit (NALCS) in Washington, D.C. He gave a presentation on LCCS, which was well received and the LCCS was adopted for use in upcoming North America mapping activities. The GEO UIC meeting was attended by Michael Brady and Joseph Cihlar. The latter is working with GTOS to develop the framework for terrestrial variables. The meeting was productive and provided networking opportunities between the GEO task leaders. A meeting was held with the Italian donor to seek funds for the second year of GTOS implementation. This was successful. Due to the change in government, however, the funding will be delayed. The Biennial report was well received and has helped generate interest from the Italian ministry. Reuben Sessa reported several upcoming meetings including: CarboAfrica 23-24 October, GEO CN Workshop for Asia/Pacific region to bring stakeholders together to develop the harmonization of forest and land cover classification. The BGTOS team kick off will be 21-22 October in Geneva with the GEO workshop on biodiversity. This is being organized by Diversitas, BGTOS and GBIFF. He explained that BGTOS is a project that JRC is developing to engage the conventions, specifically CBD, to develop products required by CBD to meet their implementation requirements. The task team is comprised of various specialists and a CBD representative. They are developing a strategy and implementation plan to submit to GTOS steering committee in March, if approved it will become an activity. Antonio Bombelli will replace Stefano Mazilli as the GEO point of contact for GTOS.
- GCOS Supplement and CEOS Response reports: Chris Justice reported that the GCOS supplement and CEOS response reports have both been submitted and things are moving ahead with preparation for presentation at the COP12. **Action:** The Project Office will circulate the CEOS response reports once received.
- GEO task management status in GOFIC-GOLD: Michael Brady reviewed the updated task management status report for September, which was circulated beforehand. Martin Herold reported for task AG-06-03 the planned GEO Land Cover Workshop in Copenhagen at EEA has been postponed. This is in response to the European Commission's decision to focus mainly on Europe. Martin Herold reported that tasks AG-06-04 (land cover) and AS-06-02 (user community of practice for forest observations, FCP) have a joint meeting on 20 October, following the FRA 2010 RS workshop at Washington. Michael Brady reported that GOFIC-GOLD intends to participate in the upcoming GEO Plenary on 28-29 November, where the progress to date will be presented, and evaluated by the membership. **Action:** Michael Brady to request that GTOS provide a seat at the Plenary for GOFIC-GOLD. There will be side event for the FCP, which GOFIC-GOLD is co-leading. **Action:** LC-IT Project Office to prepare outreach materials for FCP booth at GEO Plenary.

### 3. Fire IT Update

- GFMC and UNISDR activities: The Global Fire Early Warning System proposal will be presented at the WMO Commission for Agro-meteorology (CAGM) workshop and meeting at New Delhi, 28 October to 3 November. Michael Brady will present the proposal and will try to have operational fire weather activities included in the 2007-2012 CAGM work plan.
- Plans for Geostationary meeting: Chris Justice reported that the upcoming Geostationary workshop from 4-6 December in Darmstadt, Germany is moving ahead. Elaine Prins and Yves Govaerts are the lead organizers. Representation from the geostationary systems is

being sought from the producers as well as developing countries to ensure that each of the geostationary systems is represented. There is currently no participation from Japan; **Action:** Project Office to contact JAXA to generate interest from Japan.

- Other recent and planned activities: Chris Justice reported that a SEARRIN workshop is being planned in Manila by Chris Salvage from the Fire Implementation team. Regional Network participation is being sought. The REDLatif meeting in Cartagena is underway; Emilio Chuvieco is the lead organizer. The SAFnet workshop in October is being lead by Pauline Dube. The Fire IT has responded to a request from ESA concerning fire monitoring with sentinel 3. The Fire IT has also responded to GEO Hazard task by providing input to David Williams. Upcoming workshops will be included in the 2007 schedule, including the upcoming EARsel meeting at Germany. Chris Justice requested members to advise the Fire IT project office of any related workshops. He suggested that the Fire IT meeting planned for next May in Spain be confirmed. **Action:** Fire IT co-leads to develop plans for IT meeting in May.

#### 4. Land Cover IT Update

- Tropical deforestation monitoring: Martin Herold reported that the GOFC-GOLD working group on the UNFCCC issue on "reducing emissions from deforestation" completed and printed a technical document for an UNFCCC related SBSTA workshop at the end of August 2006 at FAO, Rome. With the help of GTOS the report was printed and distributed during the workshop. Given the positive feedback, the GG working group will continue its activities with the intention to develop a manual style document. For the UNFCCC COP 12 in Nairobi, a joint ESA/GOFC-GOLD side event is planned on this issue. The LC-IT Project Office will participate in the ESA/GOFC-GOLD booth in the COP exhibition hall. **Action:** LC-IT Project Office to prepare outreach materials for booth.
- FAO-FRA global assessment: Martin Herold reported that the FRA 2010 will include an additional Global Assessment of forest cover change using remote sensing. The methodology for this assessment is in discussion and GG will be invited to participate in a methods meeting at Washington from 18-19 October. Michael Brady proposed that Mike Wulder, a Land Cover Implementation team member from Canada, be invited to the meeting as he has extensive experience with sampling programs under the national forest inventory and forest cover mapping programs. **Action:** Chris Schmillius will contact Anthony Janetos regarding the invitation. Philippe Mayaux reported on the JRC TREES3 meeting with the FRA team, which also focused on sampling for global deforestation during the next program from 2007-2013. The grid sampling approach adopted by FAO, will likely be implemented at the JRC for the high resolution deforestation estimate. The complementary activities between Modis and Landsat were discussed.
- Other LC activities: Chris Schmillius reported on a 2.5 day workshop held at the University of Leipzig to discuss the Siberian Earth System Cluster. Discussions included disturbance mapping and hydrological issues. The workshop resulted in all of Siberia being covered including all major Siberian rivers. Chris Schmillius reported that the Jena Project Office was awarded 3 years of funding for a proposal for the processing of Modis and distribution mapping, and algorithms for agriculture. Chris Schmillius attended the Space Advisory Group meeting in Brussels. TG enterprise has taken over all GMES activities for Europe in the 2<sup>nd</sup> framework program. The draft of the 2<sup>nd</sup> framework is in line with GOFC-GOLD

requirements; however the emphasis is on Europe. The framework will be published before the next meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Philippe Mayaux will participate in the GEOSS/Diversitas/GTOS/GBIF workshop on the needs of global biodiversity conventions from the observing systems to be held at the end of October in Geneva. Philippe Mayaux suggested that this would be a good opportunity for GOF-C-GOLD to become involved in producing data for the biodiversity convention. Chris Justice suggested that this be linked to the IGOL theme. **Action:** Philippe Mayaux will forward meeting background to the Project Office.

## **5. Regional Networks**

- Network issues and plans: Garik Gutman requested an update on the intended Pan African regional network meeting. Michael Brady reported that the Jena RN meeting in March 2006 had superseded the Pan African meeting, but that the intention for the meeting remains. Preliminary discussions are being held with Pauline Dube regarding a Pan African meeting for the first quarter of 2007. Philippe Mayaux suggested that this meeting could also be the official launch for the West Africa RN, and that JRC could provide funds towards this meeting. David Skole reported that a GOF-C-GOLD science plan is being developed for West Africa through collaboration with Cheikh Mbow (reference Minutes from 15 September 2005). For the SAFNet meeting at Maputo, Mozambique from September 4-6, the Project Office sent to Pauline Dube reports and presentations from the Jena 2006 RN meeting, as well as GOF-C-GOLD brochures and folders. No GOF-C-GOLD representatives were available to attend. **Action:** Project Office, Philippe Mayaux and Olga Krankina to pursue pan Africa meeting with Pauline Dube and others. Garik Gutman commented that the report from the Siberian meeting was comprehensive.
- North American Land Cover Summit: Garik Gutman had presented at the NALCS and commented that NASA was not represented well. Chris Justice presented the GOF-C-GOLD program at the Summit and proposed that a regional network be considered for North America. The LCCS was endorsed by the Summit. An agreement in principal was reached regarding a North American land cover map using a mid-decadal data set.
- Garik Gutman suggested that START and GOF-C-GOLD develop and lead a series of regional Land Cover conferences of Young Scientists, with an emphasis on disturbances. These meetings could be tied to the GOF-C-GOLD regional networks, such as NERIN, REDLATIF, LUTEA, SAFNET, etc. This way, young scientists will not only report on their achievements, but will also see how their results can lead to practical applications and implementation and use by local stakeholders.

## **6. Any other business**

- Next teleconference is scheduled for 19 October 2006.
- 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 GOF-C-GOLD ExComm participation and events schedule, 2006-2007
- Updated GEO Task Management Matrix, September

GOFC-GOLD Project Office