

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 16 November 2006

Participants: Michael Brady, Garik Gutman, Chris Schmallius, Chris Justice, Marin Herold, David Skole, and Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- COP12 of the UNFCCC included several contributions from GOFC-GOLD in the area of research and systematic observation.
- GOFC-GOLD preparing to participate in the GEO Plenary at Bonn.
- LCCS to be included in upcoming ISO/TC 211 meeting.
- Fire IT to develop global fire assessment over the next 2-3 years.
- Proposed global fire early warning system presented at recent meeting of WMO Commission for Agrometeorology.
- GOFC-GOLD participates in design of FAO global forest assessment 2010.
- New Landsat Data Continuity Mission includes three members of GOFC-GOLD Land Cover Implementation Team.
- NASA to support regional network coordinator through START.

Details

1. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GTOS update, meetings, requests for GOFC inputs: GTOS has confirmed that the steering meeting planned for March will be held at UNEP in Nairobi. Michael Brady updated Berrien Moore at the ESSP meeting in Beijing on GOFC-GOLD succession planning.
- Relevant COP 12 activities – CEOS response, ESA side event: Martin Herold gave an update on the COP 12 in Nairobi. At the SBSTA meetings during the research and systematic observation discussions the CEOS response document to the global climate observing system implementation plan was presented. A large number of GOFC-GOLD members have contributed to this response (<http://www.ceos.org/index.html>). Martin Herold provided an update on the ESA/GOFC-GOLD side event. Jacqueline Sambale represented GOFC-GOLD at a booth and distributed the GOFC-GOLD coordinated technical document on reducing emission from deforestation. Negotiations on reducing emission from deforestation are moving forward, a decision was made to have another SBSTA workshop likely in March 2007 to discuss science and technology issues as well as policy issues. The GOFC-GOLD working group has agreed to move toward providing technical guidelines and will have a workshop prior to the next SBSTA meeting. The documents are available at the UNFCCC website.
- GEO task management status and upcoming Plenary: Michael Brady reviewed the updated task management matrix. He will also represent GTOS at the upcoming plenary. GOFC-GOLD has been accepted as a recognized contributor to the plenary, or can remain as a subgroup under GTOS. Chris Justice indicated his preference that GOFC-GOLD be recognized a contributor. Michael Brady indicated that there are advantages to remaining under GTOS. The plenary will likely result in an approval of the accomplishments of the current work plan and an approval on the 2007-2009 work plan, as well as financial commitment and approvals for the GEO secretariat. The upcoming GEO Summit in fall

2007, in which ministers will participate, will also be discussed. Once the new GEO work plan is approved, the executive committee will need to review and decide what GOFC-GOLD will contribute to. The forest observation community of practice (FCP) will have a booth at the Plenary that will be managed by Michael Brady, Martin Herold and Hakan Ollsen. There will be a NASA booth at the plenary with GOFC-GOLD fire exposure. Garik Gutman reported that NASA will support a meeting on Geographic information/Geomatics of the International Standards Organization (ISO) to be held in May 2007. The ISO/TC 211 Geographic information/Geomatics is responsible for the geographic information series of standards of the International Standards Organization (ISO). The funding has been transferred to START to transfer to FAO.

2. Fire IT Update

- GFMC and UNISDR activities: Chris Justice reported that the FAO is moving away from integrating fire directly in the FRA 2010. As a result, Chris Justice and Johann Goldammer suggest that GOFC-GOLD Fire IT take the initiative to develop its own global fire assessment over the next two years using the regional networks and subsidiary networks. This would then be available for the FAO to incorporate in their system when needed. The global fire assessment would also be a link to the Land Cover IT. There is a need for a Fire IT workshop, which could be held adjacent to the international fire conference in Spain 13-17 May. Johann Goldammer is organizing a side meeting for the regional networks at the fire conference. Emilio Chuvieco and Chris Justice are also considering an event at the EARSeL SIG fire conference in Greece in September to bring the Fire IT together.
- Plans for Geostationary meeting: The planning for the workshop to be held 4-6 December is on track. A working group of CGMS may be created as an outcome of the workshop. CGMS is a forum for the meteorological geostationary satellite committee.
- Planned activities in 2007, IT and RNs: Chris Elvidge is considering a fire session at the next APAN meeting in Manila 22-26 January 2007, and is seeking the involvement of the SE Asia regional network (SEARRIN). A GOFC-GOLD session is to be added to the international remote sensing conference in San Jose, Costa Rica, 20-25 June. Ivan Csiszar and Chris Justice are considering creating a special issue of the international journal of wildland fire with papers. Ivan Csiszar submitted a GOFC abstract for the plenary. A RedLaTIF member will attend. Discussions are ongoing with Tom Bobbe about the direct broadcast workshop which will be supported by the fire service in NASA. This will likely be held in Mexico City, aligned with a seaspace conference and will be hosted by Conabio. An organizing committee will be set up shortly. Johann Goldammer is setting up an Asian network with a scientist from Nepal; plans for India will tie into this initiative. Michael Brady presented the GOFC-GOLD proposal to develop a global early warning system for fire danger rating at the WMO Commission meeting for Agrometeorology. The Commission has agreed to support a fire weather workshop in 2007 with GOFC-GOLD as a co-organizer.

3. Land Cover IT Update

- FAO-FRA global assessment: Martin Herold reported on GOFC-GOLD participation in the recent FRA 2010 planning meeting at Washington. Chris Schmillius commented on the FRA 2010 plans from a radar perspective. Discussions and clarification are required on how to transfer knowledge about interpretation to the different regions. DLR announced a new launch date of 27 February, allowing continuity for the joint project with FAO. The discussions were positive and resulted in agreement for the validation work in the regions,

support from the regional contacts and cooperation with the optical data community. There was no representation from ESA or DLR. Martin Herold reported that GOFC-GOLD was invited to further participate in the 2010 process in specific areas. The GOFC presentation outlined the seven areas where GOFC can contribute including the legend, harmonization, and consensus building on methods. There was a proposal for GOFC to provide the validation for the assessment. Martin Herold suggested that remote sensing data access requires the most urgent action from GOFC. Three issues regarding data access are historical data sets, archives and the future of Landsat. Chris Justice commented that there had been a request from Tony Janetos for clarification from NASA on mid-decadal global Landsat land survey and made a request for the quick delivery of MDGLS data to support the FRA 2010 and to meet the needs of the TREES project. Concern was expressed that the data may not be available. Garik Gutman reported that the USGS is involved in compiling and processing data and that there will likely be products in 2007. **Action:** Project office will circulate the minutes from the FRA meeting to the ExComm.

- Tropical deforestation monitoring: Martin Herold reported that there is a need for case studies as well as technical guidelines. The task of coordinating the case studies to get a common message included is required. There will be a telcon mid December. Dave Skole commented that pilot projects to show how things can be done are where GOFC can take leadership. Avoided deforestation can also be done in CDM's and not only at the national level. GOFC should revisit and strengthen the role of the regional networks. **Action:** Dave Skole, Philippe Mayaux, Olga Krankina and Michael Brady will discuss the progress of the West African regional network in another telcon.
- Other LC activities: Chris Schnullius reported that Europe is in the preparation phase of the launch of the FP7 framework program. This will last 7 years with annual calls. The first call will be in December. More will be spent on the global monitoring for environment and security (GMES), including the three services: emergency, marine and land. Negotiations are ongoing with ESA to provide free data access however there are concerns over the in-situ data. EEA will likely be responsible for coordinating the collection of in-situ data. Drafts of the work programs can be requested from Chris Schnullius. GMES and GEO are listed as central pillars in the space program. **Action:** Chris Schnullius will investigate this as a possible link for GOFC as well as funding opportunities. There are possibilities for resources for the regional networks. ISPRS announced a conference to be held in April 2007 that will include a land cover session co-organized by Chris Schnullius. Her participation will require START support. Michael Brady reported that Tom Loveland, Mike Wulder and Curtis Woodstock of the LC IT are members of the new Landsat (LDCM) science team.

4. Regional Networks

- Network issues and plans: Michael Brady reported that the SAFNET annual meeting was held in October. The Project Office sent GOFC-GOLD folders, brochures and presentations for the meeting. Discussions are beginning for a Pan Africa regional network meeting in 2007. Michael Brady had a preliminary discussion with John Latham regarding the need for the GLCN and GOFC regional networks to come closer together. Further discussions on this will be planned. The Jena regional network report is nearing completion and will be distributed to regional network meeting participants. Garik Gutman announced that since Olga Krankina is the regional network coordinator he will provide financial support for this

role. Further resources will be provided to START for Olga Krankina to use in her RN coordinator role.

- START fund update and new project: Michael Brady reported that Kathleen Landauer is in the process of wrapping up existing NASA START funds. There is a small amount remaining. Kathleen Landauer will work with GOFC-GOLD on planning for the new NASA START funds.

5. Succession Planning

- Chris Schmuilius reported that the LC IT sought participants at the FRA meeting in Washington. Matt Hansen of SDSU and Mette Loyche Wilke of FAO have agreed to join the LC IT. **Action:** the project office will issue formal invitations to them. Members of the Geoland consortium may act as observers on the LC IT. **Action:** Chris Schmuilius will elaborate on this issue further via an email to the ExComm.

6. Any other business

- Next teleconference is scheduled for 21 December 2006.

7. List of Documents Circulated

- Updated GOFC-GOLD ExComm participation and events schedule, 2006-2007
- Updated GEO Task Management Matrix

GOFC-GOLD Project Office