

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 14 February 2007

Participants: Michael Brady, Chris Justice, Reuben Sessa, Ivan Csiszar, Chris Schmallius, Jacqueline Sambale, Curtis Woodcock, Erin Naydenov

Guests: Tony Janetos, Emilio Chuvieco

Highlights and Action Items

- GTOS requests GOFC-GOLD support for Fire and Land Cover ECV standards
- Fire Early Warning System may be included in the West Africa Regional Network initiation meeting
- An inception meeting for a Latin American Land Cover Regional Network to be added to the RED-DC Bolivia workshop
- “GOFC-GOLD: Europe’s link to global environmental monitoring” presented at the GEOLAND plenary

Details

1. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GTOS update, meetings, requests for GOFC inputs: Reuben Sessa reported that the GTOS steering committee meeting will be moved to the end of the year and new dates are being identified. The GTOS Secretariat is in the process of preparing two progress reports for the UNFCCC SBSTA 26 meeting in May; one report will give an overview of possible scenarios for the development of a framework for the preparation of guidance materials, standards and reporting guidelines for terrestrial observing systems for climate (draft now completed). The second report will summarize the status of the development of standards for each of the essential climate variables in the terrestrial domain. **Action:** Reuben Sessa will distribute the report to the Executive Committee for feedback. Reuben Sessa requested GOFC-GOLD to support the finalization of the summaries for the fire, land cover and biomass ECV’s. **Action:** Reuben Sessa will distribute templates and background information on the ECV’s to the Executive Committee. Members from JCOS, ISO, FAO, GCOS, UAPC, as well as Joe De Cella and David Goodbridge have been consulted regarding framework development for the observations. Reuben Sessa clarified that GTOS and FAO will host the ISO TC211 24 Plenary Meeting at FAO, HQ in Rome from the 27 May to the 1 June (ISO meeting details: <http://dwms.fao.org/isomeeting/index.htm>). This is an important event for GTOS as it is part of the process to have LCCS endorsed as an international standard. **Action:** Reuben Sessa will distribute materials and the agenda for the ISO meeting to the Executive Committee.
- GEO work plan task update: Michael Brady reviewed the new GEO work plan and indicated that the monthly update of the 8 GOFC-GOLD tasks has not changed substantially. The Fire Early Warning System task will be linked in to the West Africa Regional Network. Johann Goldammer and Michael Brady are planning and gathering support for this activity. The task in which GOFC-GOLD advocates Earth Observation continuity has been reformulated as Task CL-06-02 CEOS constellation for Land Surface Imaging. **Action:** Michael Brady will distribute the new task description to the Executive Committee. GOFC-GOLD to determine further involvement in this task (may be suitable for new Chair?). **Action:** Antonio Bombelli will provide an updated summary GTOS task contribution list when prepared.

2. Fire IT Update

- Chris Justice introduced Emilio Chuvieco who works on fire issues including REDLatif and is the lead of the EARSeL special interest group on fire in Europe.
- GFMC and UNISDR activities: Michael Brady reported that the planned West Africa RN initiation meeting may include the GEO task related to the Fire Early Warning System. The WMO Commission for Agrometeorology (CAgM) has offered funding for this meeting. Michael Brady and Johann Goldammer will meet the CAgM at WMO in late February.
- Upcoming IT activities: Chris Justice reviewed the planned Fire IT events that include; the 4th International Wildland Fire Conference in Seville (13-17 May), ISRSE meeting in Costa Rica (25-29 June) including Conabio and Fire sessions, REDLatif meeting in Argentina (Sept), Fire IT meeting with a regional fire workshop at the EARSeL SIG fire workshop in Greece (25-29 Sept), Direct Broadcast workshop in Mexico (10-11 Oct), and Fire related activities at the West African RN workshop (Oct/Nov). Ivan Csiszar has been working with START to determine support for Fire IT activities.

3. Land Cover IT Update

- Tropical deforestation monitoring (RED-EC)-planning update: Jacqueline Sambale reported on the planning for the RED-DC workshop in April. FAN in Bolivia will be the local hosts and will provide a local organizing team. The workshop will include one day of presentations focusing on case studies, and two days of breakout group discussions. The first announcement has been issued. A two day field trip following the workshop is being considered. Curtis Woodcock confirmed his attendance at the workshop to represent calibration and validation issues. Michael Brady reported that a one day inception meeting for a Latin American Land Cover Regional Network may be added to the workshop. Carlos Souza has been involved and has offered to help organize the meeting and will identify participants from Latin American countries. Carlos Souza wishes to focus on an Amazon Basin Regional Network sub group, which involves nine countries. The experience of REDLatif is also being sought for this RN meeting.
- Other LC activities: Chris Schnullius reported on the GEOLAND presentations in Berlin, which were divided into Global and European sessions. The emphasis was on the European part of the project. The European land cover implementation team reported on the European water framework directive, water information systems for Europe, water supply in Southern Europe, soil erosion assessments and monitoring, spatial planning, European urban atlas, and nature protection. Funding is in place for a GEOLAND 2. Global activities are focused on Africa. Chris Schnullius presented “GOFC-GOLD: Europe’s link to global environmental monitoring” at the GEOLAND plenary. She reported on a meeting with the GEOLAND team, where the idea of a stronger global aspect in GEOLAND 2 was supported. EEA has indicated that they are interested in supporting GOFC-GOLD’s GEO land cover activities. Chris Schnullius attended the space advisory group meeting, where the ESA agenda for the next 20 years for satellites was presented. ESA will participate in GEO; however the level of commitment is unclear. A kick off meeting of a small interest project in central Siberia was held with Sergey Bartalev, Chris Schnullius, Mikael Korvettes and Dimitrie Yashov. The project is a 2 year cooperation to calculate Carbon emissions from disturbances and will start with a publication comparing disturbance maps from the last 10-15 years. Curtis Woodcock reported that there will be a strategy meeting to determine how to best use the mid decadal global land survey dataset that is being developed in the USA. The meeting will also discuss how to provide the 2005-2006 update to the old GEOCOVER products, and develop a

strategy for generating global assessments of land cover and land cover change investigation dynamics. Chris Justice, Garik Gutman, and Curtis Woodcock will attend. Curtis Woodcock indicated that he would like to ensure that the GOF-C-GOLD champions GEO land cover tasks and NASA's objectives are inline with GEO requirements. Chris Justice suggested that GOF-C-GOLD could act as the international conduit. Tony Janetos is providing support to the FRA 2010 global assessment, which intends to use the MDGLS dataset. He will also participate in the meeting in late February. Curtis Woodcock indicated that his main focus for the LC IT is to develop a global land cover validation system that would be used as a basis for validating a variety of land cover products. The relationship between this system and the CEOS Cal/Val working group will be made explicit. Steve Stehmen has been contacted regarding his potential role on the statistical dimensions of the global land cover validation system. Michael Brady suggested that the pan Africa RN meeting may provide an opportunity to create a test bed for Cal/Val.

4. Regional Networks

- Network plans; Ghana & Bolivia workshops: Michael Brady reviewed ideas and plans for the pan Africa RN and Latin America RN meetings. START and the Canadian Forest Service have confirmed that they will provide support for these meetings. Other agencies may provide support as well.
- START work plan: Kathleen Landauer and Michael Brady met to develop the 2007 work plan for the new NASA START funds. The Executive Committee had been requested to provide input regarding their funding needs. **Action:** LC-IT will provide further information on funding requirements. Kathleen Landauer is planning to develop a three year work plan. The new 3-year NASA START grant has a focus on data dissemination and access, in addition to support for regional networks and Cal/Val issues. Michael Brady requested that the implementation teams address three issues in their planning activities including; 1) strengthening data access and dissemination with the regional networks, 2) incorporate a young scientist component to their implementation team meetings and 3) address the issue of Cal/Val test beds. All three of these components will strengthen the regional networks. Garik Gutman indicated his support for young scientist workshops, which have been successful in Russia. These workshops could be held initially at regional levels with a global workshop every 3-4 years. The RN coordinator role of Olga Krankina was also discussed; Michael Brady reported that NASA has provided Olga Krankina additional funds through START to carry out her role as coordinator of the Regional Networks. Kathleen Landauer is working with Olga Krankina on the scope. Garik Gutman discussed his interest in supporting the MAIRS program. The project office opened in Beijing in 2006. The South East Asian, East Asian and South Asian regional networks could support this project. **Action:** Garik Gutman will forward MAIRS background information to the project office. Garik Gutman and Michael Brady discussed the progress of the initiation of an East Asian RN, championed by John Townshend, who has been asked to continue this process.

5. Succession Planning

- Chair candidates: As the succession process has been completed for the IT's, the Executive Committee can now focus on Chair succession. Tony Janetos was invited to participate in the teleconference and discuss interests with the Executive Committee. He indicated that since his involvement at the inception stage, GOF-C-GOLD has expanded and now has more depth to its activities. He expressed interest in the role Chair role; however this would depend on

having the means and support to fulfill this role. Finding the appropriate role for GOFC-GOLD in the variety of international fire and land cover activities is critically important for the organization. Tony Janetos suggested several issues that should be addressed including; the role of GOFC-GOLD with GEO, how to transition IT work activities into stably supported long term ongoing activities, and how to maintain the support base. Chris Justice indicated that GOFC-GOLD is moving from a position of advocacy to an implementation organization. Tony Janetos agreed that GOFC-GOLD needs to start to take the lead in getting things done, more project and product oriented. Chris Justice indicated that international coordination is weak. Tony Janetos reported that at the last FRA 2010 meeting the need for coordination on these international activities was pointed out, this is a role that GOFC-GOLD could play. Chris Schmulius commented that GOFC-GOLD needs to develop an improved role with in GTOS and FAO, the Chair should help link to international activities. Tony Janetos indicated that GOFC-GOLD needs to sort out the proper relationship between these activities. An organization that can deliver will have a strong international influence. As GOFC-GOLD has become a project, product and implementation organization its influence will increase.

6. Any other business

- The next telcon: to be announced (likely 3rd Wednesday at 10:30 EDT)

7. List of Documents Circulated

- Updated GOFC-GOLD events and participation schedule, 2006-2007

GOFC-GOLD Project Office