

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 27 April 2007

Participants: Michael Brady, Johann Goldammer, Tony Janetos, Garik Gutman, Ivan Csiszar, Chris Justice, Martin Herold, Curtis Woodcock, Kathleen Landauer, Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- Tony Janetos welcomed as new Chair of GOFC-GOLD
- Upcoming ISO meeting to address LCCS standardization
- Upcoming 4th International Wildland Fire Conference to include GOFC-GOLD event
- Annual Fire IT planning meeting to be held in September
- Working group on tropical deforestation monitoring holds successful workshop at Bolivia
- GOFC-GOLD addressing data gap and need for international data exchange
- Regional Networks active in Latin America and Africa

Details

1. Strategy and Organization

- Based on unanimous agreement, the Executive Committee welcomed Tony Janetos as the new Chair of GOFC-GOLD. Tony was involved in GOFC-GOLD in the initial stages of the panel's development. The next step will be to seek approval from GTOS, as the panel chair is a member of the GTOS steering committee. **Action:** Michael Brady will prepare a letter for Tony and request to GTOS. Tony Janetos indicated that GOFC-GOLD has positioned itself well for a range of activities and he is looking forward helping. Chris Justice suggested a one day session with the IT leads, Executive Director and Tony Janetos to bring him up to speed on GOFC-GOLD activities. **Action:** The group will look for an opportunity to hold this meeting.
- Telcon reorientation and expansion: Michael Brady reviewed the telcon reorientation proposal (document circulated). The changes are aimed at reducing the amount of routine reporting of IT activities, while engaging in more discussion on issues and decisions. The ITs would hold quarterly telcons, with support provided by the project office (telcon organization, minutes). The proposal was endorsed by IT co-leads. The telcons will be staggered and planned so that they feed into the ExComm telcons. The intention to also organize telcons for regional network representatives was also considered. It was agreed to revisit this once the IT telcons are underway. **Action:** IT co-leads will draft telcon agendas that relates to IT goals and objectives as well as ExComm issues. The project office will propose an overall telcon schedule.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs (SBSTA, LCCS-ISO): The GTOS secretariat is organizing two interventions for the UNFCCC SBSTA, relating to terrestrial observation standards (fire, land cover, biomass). GTOS has informally sought input from GOFC-GOLD, Michael Brady has requested that GTOS formalize this request and develop a systematic process for inputs. FAO will host an upcoming ISO meeting, where the LCCS developed by FAO will be discussed with regard to developing an ISO standard. GOFC-GOLD has submitted comments to GLCN through GTOS on the LCCS framework, as well as a request for form a working group to discuss concerns and provide feedback. **Action:** GTOS to advise on status of new working group.

- GEO work plan task update and issues: Michael Brady briefly reviewed the updated GEO task management report (document circulated). Recent developments are also reviewed below in IT discussions.

3. Fire IT Update

- GFMC and UNISDR activities: Johann G. Goldammer (GFMC) reported on the preparations of the 4th International Wildland Fire Conference 14-17 May 2007, Sevilla, Spain, which has the objectives to: (a) provide a forum for forest fire management leaders, politicians, professionals, researchers and practitioners from throughout the globe to discuss and work on critical fire issues affecting people, communities, resources and ecosystems in all Regions and work on a cooperative way in the consolidation of a Global Wildland Fire Management Strategy; (b) strengthen the effectiveness of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks and support their links into the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network; and (c) provide a forum for the fire management industry, research organizations and fire specialists to display innovations, new technologies, products and methods for wildland fire management and interact with the Conference participants. So far more than 1000 conference registrations have been recorded, with participation from all regions globally. A GOFC-GOLD side event will be held, and an invited presentation will be given by Fire IT co-chair Chris Justice. Further details can be found at: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/Manag/CBFiM.htm>. **Action:** Johann Goldammer will send the three documents to the project office for distribution.
- IT plans and issues: Ivan Csiszar reviewed the GOFC-GOLD events schedule 2007 (document circulated) and reported that there will be a fire session at remote sensing symposium in Costa Rica. He will also try to meet with his GEO contacts regarding related GEO tasks (document circulated). The Thessaloniki meeting will have a GOFC session and a Fire IT planning meeting. The Direct Broadcast meeting is planned for early October in Mexico. The agenda is being finalized; individuals are being invited to talk about issues related to fire data and information systems and services (DISS). Michael Brady reviewed the Africa Symposium concept document (document circulated) and pointed out that it includes Fire IT related activities. The fire-oriented results of this event will feed into the GEO ministerial meeting to be held in late November 2007 in South Africa. Further feedback will be sought from the IT to develop the thematic agenda.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Tropical deforestation monitoring (REDD): Curtis Woodcock reviewed the recent Bolivia REDD workshop. GOFC-GOLD received positive feedback for its role in developing monitoring protocols to report reduced GHG emissions. Martin Herold indicated that the workshop was held in Bolivia as it is a country dealing with tropical deforestation issues and has ongoing case studies. Support for the workshop and meeting was provided by START and CFS. FAN Bolivia was the local host and successfully coordinated the events. The working group has decided to prepare a source book for individual parties to use in planning how to provide submissions on GHG emission and how to verify their work. This source book will be available for the November COP. There will be a workshop report and a report of the adjacent regional network meeting. The working group also developed a program for the GOFC-GOLD/ESA side event at the May SBSTA. **Action:** Martin Herold to distribute program materials.
- IT plans and issues: Curtis Woodcock discussed the coordination of access to international remote sensing assets and the present/upcoming data gap. At the Bolivia workshop he

discussed the idea of establishing data exchanges between India and the USA as a step towards developing a coordinated international repository of satellite observations. GOFC-GOLD is well positioned to play a central role in this evolving activity due to its international focus. Countries that are collecting relevant data would contribute to a centralized archive. Currently countries are doing this nationally. Tony Janetos indicated that this exchange concept should involve both CEOS and GEO. He suggested that as the US is the current CEOS chair it may be possible for the US to start this activity. Garik Gutman also expressed support for the exchange concept. **Action:** Curtis Woodcock will develop a concept document outlining what he recommends that CEOS and GEO undertake and how it relates to GEO work plan tasks. He will distribute this to the ExComm for discussion at the next telcon. Martin Herold reported on the GEO task side meeting at the NASA land cover science team meeting, where the issue of the decadal survey was emphasized.

5. Regional Networks

- Network plans; Michael Brady reviewed the Africa Symposium document (circulated). The event in the Fall of 2007 will combine a pan-Africa regional network meeting, a West Africa regional network meeting with Fire and Land Cover IT related activities. A balanced thematic content between Fire and Land Cover is planned, which will engage both ITs. Initial feedback is positive from the Africa regional networks. Further feedback is being sought from the WMO for funding. The results of the event will feed into the GEO ministerial meeting. **Action:** The project office will further develop the program and will engage the ITs to develop thematic agendas.
- LA-RN meeting outcome: The one day Latin America regional network meeting at Bolivia was well attended and included positive discussions towards developing a continental network with fire and land cover interests, as well as a regional network related to land cover observations in the Amazon Basin. Carlos DeSouza and Carlos DiBella (Redlatif) are the local leads. **Action:** the project office will assist in preparing a meeting report.
- START work plan and budget planning status:

6. Any other business

- Next telcon: 17 May, 2007

7. List of Documents Circulated

- Minutes of 14 March telcon
- Updated GEO task management report
- Updated GOFC-GOLD events schedule 2007
- Africa Symposium concept
- Telcon reorientation proposal

GOFC-GOLD Project Office