

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 31 May 2007**

Participants: Tony Janetos, Michael Brady, Johann Goldammer, Garik Gutman, Ivan Csiszar, Chris Justice, Curtis Woodcock, Kathleen Landauer, Hassan Virji, Olga Krankina, Erin Naydenov

### **Highlights and Action Items**

- GOFC-GOLD helps sponsor ISO meeting for LCCS review
- New program of quarterly meetings introduced for panel teams and networks
- Fire Early Warning System progress report submitted to the GEO Secretariat
- Land Cover IT meeting planned for fall 2007
- GOFC-GOLD to plan regional young scientist workshop for Siberia in 2008

### **Details**

1. **Organization matters:** Tony Janetos welcomed the participants and indicated that the telcon would be kept to an hour. The project office and Tony Janetos are exchanging letters of agreement to extend the CFS project office support a further 3 years to March 2009. The expanded teleconference schedule for 2007/08 was reviewed and accepted by the ExComm (document circulated). Erin Naydenov will assist with telcon arrangements including the new quarterly telcons of the ITs and Regional Networks.
2. **GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters**
  - GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: The approval process for the GOFC-GOLD Chair position is underway and will be completed by 01 June, 2007. FAO is sponsoring an ISO meeting in June, where LCCS will be evaluated as a possible ISO standard. GOFC-GOLD has provided funds to sponsor the meeting. GOFC-GOLD has also requested that FAO/GTOS start a working group to address concerns about and further development of LCCS. **Action:** Project office to check on status of working group. GTOS presented progress reports on their terrestrial observation framework and the terrestrial standards reports at the SBSTA 26<sup>th</sup> meetings at Bonn in May. GOFC-GOLD has provided comments on land cover related standards in the reports. The GTOS steering committee meeting will be held in Nairobi 5–7 November, 2007. **Action:** Tony Janetos to attend.
  - Michael Brady reviewed the updated GEO task management matrix (document circulated). Johann Goldammer has submitted a progress report on the Fire Early Warning System to the GEO Secretariat. Next week will be the first meeting of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction where there will be a Global Wildland Fire Network side event, in which GEO and WMO will participate. Ivan Csiszar reported on task DI0609 (satellite for disaster monitoring). The Fire IT is contributing to the Geostationary Fire Monitoring Network, which could be part of the task. The network has meetings in June.
  - Also, related to GEO task DA0703, Curtis Woodcock and Chris Justice discussed constellations and continuity of Landsat class sensors. There are 3 issues relating to constellations: the MDGLS, end of decade dataset, and a broader future constellation plan. Chris Justice has discussed this with Martha Maiden and Garik Gutman of NASA. Work on the mid decadal dataset is ongoing. The end of decade dataset could be a constellation of best available international assets. The new systems required for a broader future constellation need to be identified. There is an initiative in CEOS called Land Surface Imaging (LSI), where it is unclear if they are looking at long term constellation planning or how to use

available assets. Martha Maiden is now the Chair of WIGISS, which is determining how to make data available through interoperable systems and metadata commonality. Martha Maiden may coordinate this initiative through CEOS/WIGISS. The GOFC-GOLD inputs for the November 2007 GEOSS plenary need to be determined. Curtis Woodcock suggested that GOFC-GOLD move beyond exchanging metadata and start stimulating data production itself. **Action:** Michael Brady will contact the DI0609 point of contact to clarify the task focus as the task seems to be a planning exercise. The task should be modified to be more proactive. Chris Justice suggested that GOFC-GOLD move task DI0609 into a global data set derived from multiple sources for the end of the decade dataset in conjunction with WIGISS, and not wait for others to provide leadership. **Action:** Garik Gutman, Chris Justice, Curtis Woodcock, Michael Brady and Martha Maiden will meet to develop a plan regarding LSI in DI0609 and DA0703. This could be an international initiative led through WIGISS with technical support from GOFC-GOLD. The GEO ministerial summit will highlight near term successes, possibly including the Fire Early Warning System and the products resulting from the Land Cover task DA0702. Michael Brady is on the Canada-USA drafting team for the Ministerial report and will track progress.

### **3. Fire IT Update**

- GFMC and UNISDR activities: Johann Goldammer reported on the successful Wildland Fire Conference at Seville. 1500 delegates from 88 countries participated. Conclusions from the regional sessions and side events are posted on the Global Fire Monitoring Center website: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/sevilla-2007.html>. The role of GOFC-GOLD in future FAO global fire assessments is positive although unclear as there are uncertainties related to future global fire assessments, either within FRA or as an independent exercise. The FAO has created the Fire Management Actions Alliance, as a pillar of the Global Fire Strategy, which has been widely endorsed.
- IT plans and issues: Ivan Csiszar had provided updated information for the events schedule. There have been regular planning telcons for the Direct Broadcast workshop in Mexico, which will involve the US Forest Service, Conabio, and NASA. **Action:** A draft agenda for the Thessaloniki Fire IT and EARSEL SIG Fire working group meetings will be available soon. The meeting will result in a special edition. Ivan Csiszar and Chris Justice are working on a way to involve EARSEL SIG fire participants in the Fire IT meeting. The Global Fire Assessment will be a major topic at the Fire IT meeting. Regarding fire early warning systems, the Fire IT will hold an international meeting in Edmonton, Canada in 2008, which will focus on the design and planning of the Global Early Warning System. This would link to the GEO task on Early Warning. The GEO Agriculture task leads should also be included. The international workshop would result in a state-of-the-art review and implementation plan for the Fire Early Warning Global System.
- IT telcon plans: The first Fire IT telcon is scheduled for June 14. Ivan Csiszar has sent the project office updated Fire IT membership details. **Action:** An agenda for the Fire IT telcon will be distributed to IT members soon.

### **4. Land Cover IT Update**

- Tropical deforestation monitoring: Martin Herold is developing a special issue on the topics discussed at the REDD meeting at Santa Cruz, Bolivia.
- IT plans and issues: Curtis Woodcock recommended that the Land Cover IT have a meeting as there have been several membership changes. The meeting should focus on the

implementation team itself and how to transition to a more operational organization. This meeting could be hosted in Boston in the fall 2007 prior to the many plenary meetings in November. START and CFS would have funding available for this meeting. **Action:** LC-IT Co-leads to plan meeting. John Townshend presented the IGOL theme report to IGOS; GOF-C-GOLD has been helping to integrate the GEOSS activities into the IGOL theme. **Action:** The IT's should review the IGOL report with regard to IT planning activities. IGOS is reviewing their links to GEO and determining if they should integrate.

- IT telcon plans: Tony Janetos suggested that 2-3 telcons be held prior to the LC IT meeting.

## 5. Regional Networks

- Africa Networks: Michael Brady and Chris Justice reviewed the updated concept for the Africa Network and fire meetings. There would be two meetings, the first of which would be in November 2007 in Ghana. This would include two events: a 3-day West Africa Network meeting, followed by a 2-day Fire Danger Requirements workshop. The West Africa Network meeting would involve both Fire and Land Cover IT's and the three other African Regional Networks. Philippe Mayaux and Dave Skole will be involved to continue previous West Africa initiatives. The fire workshop would result in a requirements document, which would be presented at fire early warning system meeting to be held in March 2008 at Edmonton.
- START work plan and budget planning status: Kathleen Landauer reported that the meeting requests have been reviewed (document circulated). There is a lack of requests from the LC IT, so START has been holding funds in anticipation of LC IT needs. **Action:** Curtis Woodcock will develop a list of LC IT requests for START. An agreement has been set up between START and Olga Krankina for her role as Regional Networks Coordinator. She will coordinate the RN telcons and will help strengthen the incorporation of data distribution systems in the RNs (as per the NASA grant scope of work). The IT's will also be involved in the development of the data distribution system. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer will send the IT's the details of what the NASA grant requires before the next telcon.
- Olga Krankina reported that a NERIN workshop is being planned for 20 September, 2007 in Urumqi, which will focus on dry land regions and will include participants from Kazakhstan that are a part of fire networks. **Action:** Olga Krankina will circulate a draft agenda to the ExComm for input. Johann Goldammer indicated that the Central Asian area is challenging as there are specific fire problems effecting forested lands and steppe lands. GFMC is working with Kazakhstan. Olga Krankina pointed out the importance of connecting to different disciplinary communities at future network meetings. One example is a connection to peatland and wetlands research communities, which have not been covered well under land cover mapping. Hassan Virji indicated that there are several meetings in the fall looking at the general swath of dry lands from Central to East Asia. He suggested that the community needs to get a sense of the overlap of these events. Many of the events may relate to the Urumqi workshop. **Action:** Hassan Virji will send a list of planned meetings (date, sponsors, meeting purpose) to the ExComm. Garik Gutman suggested that a GOF-C-GOLD regional Siberian young scientist workshop be added to the 2008 Tomsk workshop. Hassan Virji indicated that this can be added to the budget planning and requested assistance from other ExComm members. Olga Krankina indicated her interest in this activity.

## **6. Any other business**

- Michael Brady suggested that with the new Chair now in place, the ExComm consider the next Scientific and Technical Board (STB) meeting for 2008. Tony Janetos requested that ExComm and IT members advise him on specific ideas and strategic issues to be included at the STB meeting. Chris Justice suggested that a face to face ExComm meeting be held prior to an STB meeting. **Action:** These should be added to the ExComm telcon agenda for further discussion.
- A focused discussion on the Africa Network meeting followed the telcon. **Action:** Erin Naydenov to circulate minutes to the ExComm and organizing committees to be formulated.
- Next quarterly telcon: Fire IT, 14 June 2007
- Next ExComm telcon: 21 June 2007

## **7. List of Documents Circulated**

- Minutes of 27 April telcon
- Updated GEO task management report
- Updated GOFC-GOLD events schedule 2007
- GOFC-GOLD teleconference schedule

GOFC-GOLD Project Office