

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 19 September 2007**

Participants: Tony Janetos, Michael Brady, Curtis Woodcock, Chris Schmallius, Ivan Csiszar, Jacqueline Sambale, Philippe Mayaux, Reuben Sessa, and Erin Naydenov

### **Highlights and Action Items**

- GOFC-GOLD is seeking a joint side event at the upcoming COP in Bali.
- Land Cover and Fire tasks have been summarized in a publication to be presented at the GEO Ministerial Summit.
- There will be a GOFC-GOLD poster display at the GEO Ministerial Summit
- GOFC-GOLD held the first Regional Networks teleconference.

### **Details**

#### **1. Remarks from the Chair**

- ExComm meeting plans: Tony Janetos suggested topics to be discussed at the upcoming ExComm meeting: 1) relationship between GOFC-GOLD and GEO should be discussed to determine how to strengthen ties; 2) representation and activity in regions of the world where GOFC-GOLD is currently weak and the impact on the ExComm's composition; 3) the role of the ExComm and how to enhance its effectiveness.; and 4) relationship with GTOS. The lack of funding support for GTOS has many implications for GOFC-GOLD, including the GEO and the conventions GEO may supplant CEOS as the preferred coordination mechanism amongst governments. This would increase the importance of GEO. Michael Brady suggested the ExComm also discuss strategic planning in preparation for the next Scientific and Technical board meeting. **Action:** Due to scheduling conflicts the ExComm meeting will not be held in conjunction with the LC-IT meeting in October - Tony Janetos and Michael Brady to select a new date for the ExComm meeting.
- Recent GTOS discussions: Tony Janetos provided an update on the recent GTOS Panel Chairs teleconference. GTOS has not confirmed a side event or a poster presentation at the upcoming COP in December. There is a spot on the SBSTA agenda for GTOS. The GTOS Secretariat is experiencing a serious funding crisis. No clear solution to the funding issue was determined. The November GTOS steering committee meeting is postponed.

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

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: Reuben Sessa reported that GTOS is preparing submissions for a side event (likely with a focus on the ECV work) for the Bali COP. Discussions are underway with FAO on the possibility of having a joint booth. **Action:** ExComm members attending the Bali COP to advise Reuben Sessa. The ECV standards reports can be found at the following site: <http://www.fao.org/gtos/topcECV.html>. GOFC-GOLD inputs are especially welcome for the ECVs fire, land cover and biomass. The articles for the GTOS Biennial Report and ECV supplement were due by 5 September 2007. **Action:** ExComm members are requested to review the examples of drafts articles, and submit any outstanding articles to Reuben Sessa. The dates of the first TOPC meeting have been finalized for the 15-16 November and will be held at FAO, HQ, Rome. GOFC-GOLD participation will be determined shortly. Michael Brady reported that GOFC-GOLD has indicated that they would like to participate at a GTOS (or another organization) side event at the COP. The work done on reducing emissions from deforestation would be highlighted.

GTOS will report on the development of the essential climate variables standards, in which GOF-C-GOLD has contributed, at the COP.

- Reuben Sessa reported that a GLCN Central Asia awareness and training workshop will be held in Ankara, Turkey from 26-30 November 2007 (date and location to be confirmed). The workshop is intended for officials from national institutes involved in land cover mapping from the following countries: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. **Action:** ExComm members are requested to assist in the identification of suitable candidates.
- GEO work plan task update and Ministerial Summit plans: Michael Brady reviewed the updated GEO work plan task sheet (circulated). The Land Cover task, Co-Lead by Martin Herold and Tom Loveland, has been summarized in a report to be published in a book that will be presented at the GEO Ministerial Summit. A similar article has been prepared to highlight the Fire Early Warning task lead by Johann Goldammer, as well as the geostationary work of the Fire IT. GOF-C-GOLD will receive 100 hundred copies of the book.
- Other GEO activities: Michael Brady attended a GEO User Interface committee meeting in August to present updates on the related GEO tasks. There was a Data and Architecture committee meeting in September where the fire task was presented. Unrelated to GOF-C-GOLD, Chris Justice is leading the GEO agricultural task. Chris Justice reported that GEO has drafted a data sharing principals' document that should be reviewed by GOF-C-GOLD. **Action:** Michael Brady will obtain and distribute the document to the ExComm and IT's to review. There is an upcoming Cal/Val workshop on best practices sponsored by GEO and CEOS. GOF-C-GOLD will be represented by Olga Krankina. Michael Brady recommended that participants look at the GEO website for other upcoming meetings. There will be a GOF-C-GOLD poster display at the GEO Ministerial Summit in Cape Town in Late November. **Action:** Michael Brady asked Reuben Sessa to confirm that he could occupy one of the two GTOS seats at the Summit in order to represent GOF-C-GOLD.

### 3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- IT telcon follow-up and plans: Ivan Csiszar reported that the Fire IT session will be held next week adjacent to the EARSel meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece. The meeting will be a full day of discussions on various activities including, geostationary fire constellation, early warning, burned area validation, long term data networks, global emissions, as well as sessions on regional networks and new fire technology. The IT will discuss the global fire assessment for 2010. The IT re-structuring and strategic directions. GEO tasks and the relationships with GEO and GTOS will also be discussed. There will also be an open session to do outreach and seek feedback from the community.
- The Redlatif meeting on 22 September will follow on the generation a burned area product for Latin America and new directions will be discussed. The Direct Broadcast meeting will be held in Mexico, 10-11 October, where fire is an integral part of the activity. There was a recent IT telcon on 6 September. Michael Brady reported on the upcoming fire workshop in conjunction with the RN meeting planned in November at Accra, Ghana. The main focus of this workshop is the Early Warning Systems, which are complimentary to GEO early warning fire task. The results from this workshop should feed into the Ministerial Summit, as the fire early warning system is on the list of early achievements for GEO. The planning is

being lead by Bill DeGroot and Tim Lynham who are working closely with Johann Goldammer.

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

- IT fall meeting plans: Curtis Woodcock reported on the upcoming LC IT meeting in October at Boston. An ambitious draft agenda has been distributed to the IT. The agenda items must be prioritized. Espen Volden has moved to the GMES from ESA, who was the contact to the IPCC and the COP. An ESA representative should be at the IT meeting in Boston. Curtis Woodcock will create a series of assignments for participants to lead items to be discussed at the meeting. **Action:** Curtis Woodcock will draft the assignment list and sent to Chris Schmuilius for comment, then distribute to the IT. The meeting rooms and hotel accommodations are lined up and will be finalized shortly. Several team members have requested support to attend the meeting. START and CFS are able to provide support for the meeting. Chris Schmuilius indicated that the participation of Sergey Bartalev would be crucial to the IT meeting.
- Chris Schmuilius reported that the contract with the German Space Agency on using the TerraSAR-X data for the FRA 2010 is close to being finalized. It will be a 3 year project with up to 300 sites studied and a PhD student will be involved. This project will start next year along with the FRA 2010 kickoff. By late 2007 The German company RapidEye is launching 5 micro satellites with a spatial resolution of 6.5m. As there are 5 satellites they have a guaranteed repetition of 3 days. There is a call to use the TerraSAR-X and RapidEye data jointly for German applications. There was a 4 day meeting at ESA with two days on monitoring northern/high latitudes. ESA will fund tenders that will be launched in 2008 that will apply radar data in Northern latitudes. Chris Schmuilius reported on ESA's planned Level 3 products, which are defined as products providing geophysical information, derived from multiple acquisitions, in space (i.e. over different areas) and/or in time (same area at different times). It is expected that the generation of L3 products will be based on L1 and L2 products and that it may require the use of external models and auxiliary information.
- The LC IT is linked to the FRA group at FAO. NASA has supported the initial phase of FRA. Matt Hansen and Tony Janetos are determining the best way that they can contribute to the second phase. The mid-decadal dataset is a weakness in the FRA as NASA may not deliver the dataset in the timeframe required for the FRA. Curtis Woodcock is writing a proposal to NASA to support the US participation to the FRA through the participation of Steve Stehmen (Statistician). Philippe Mayaux requested an update on the suggestion to use the CEOS visceral constellation to fill in the gaps in the mid-decadal data set. Michael Brady reported that at the Architecture and Data Committee meeting there were two updates. Mette Wilkie (FAO) provided an update on the FRA GEO task related to source mapping and change monitoring. The other update was on the virtual constellations task, which contains a land surface imaging constellation component (CEOS, USGS, ISRO). **Action:** Michael Brady will distribute the updates to the ExComm.

#### **5. Regional Networks**

- Michael Brady reported that Olga Krankina lead the first Regional Networks teleconference. **Action:** Erin Naydenov to distribute the RN telcon minutes to the ExComm.
- African regional Network and Fire meeting: Philippe Mayaux reviewed the meeting plans. The event will consist of a full week of meetings, 2.5 days on the West African Regional Network and 2.5 days on the Requirements for Fire Early Warning Systems in Africa. The

meetings will take place 12-17 November in Accra, Ghana. The meeting sponsors are START, CFS, JRC, WMO, GEO and the University of Ghana. Philippe Mayaux indicated that this meeting must provide a forum for people to have free expression. This will help make the network dynamic. Funding support for Scientist from West Africa must be top priority, along with support for the other African regional network participants.

**6. Any other business**

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 17 October at 10:30 EDT

**7. List of Documents Circulated**

1. Updated GEO task management report
2. GOFC-GOLD events schedule
3. Fire IT telcon minutes- 06 Sept 2007

GOFC-GOLD Project Office