

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 20 December 2007

Participants: Tony Janetos, Michael Brady, Curtis Woodcock, Ivan Csiszar, Garik Gutman, Johann Goldammer, Jaqueline Sambale, Chris Schmullius and Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- The GOFC-GOLD STB meeting is tentatively planned for June 9-10 2008 in Helsinki
- SBSTA endorsed GTOS reports on terrestrial framework and on the development of standards
- Accra meeting results incorporated into GOFC-GOLD display at GEO Ministerial Summit
- Fire IT and Land Cover IT each welcome two new IT members

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- 2008 event schedule: Tony Janetos introduced the updated event schedule. The schedule now extends to November 2008. The STB meeting could be held after the NESSPI meeting in Helsinki from 9–10 June 2008. The Science and Technical Board meeting will include the Executive Committee, Regional Network representation and senior external advisors. An Executive Committee meeting should be held prior to the STB meeting. Chris Schmullius reported that the European Radar Conference will be held 2-5 June. **Action:** Participants to add to the event schedule and advise Erin Naydenov of availability for the ExComm and STB meetings. Michael Brady reported that the event schedule is required to budget START and CFS support.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: Reuben Sessa submitted a written update of GTOS activities. GTOS had good visibility at the UNFCCC conference in Bali. The GTOS booth provided information and documents resulting in interest from participants and complements from GTOS Sponsors. SBSTA endorsed the reports submitted on the terrestrial framework and on the development of standards. GTOS is requested to finalize the work and develop a final framework proposal. The new TOPC Panel held its first meeting at FAO HQ in Rome, 15-16 November. TOPC will help finalize the standards and methodology work being undertaken for the terrestrial ECVs, and review the current ECVs and determine if further revisions and additions are required to the current list of ECVs. GTOS Sponsors have been discussing the future of GTOS and potential new implementation structures which can be supported by the current political and donor base. However, proposals for discussion will not be available until early 2008. **Action:** Reuben Sessa will circulate proposals as soon as the documentation is available.
- GEO Ministerial Summit results: Michael Brady attended the Summit as a part of the GTOS delegation with John Latham. GTOS provided a statement to the plenary and a statement at the Ministerial Summit which focused on the need to address continuity issues of Landsat class data. GOFC-GOLD had a large poster display, prepared by Jaqueline Sambale and Martin Herold, which incorporated some of the results of the Accra meetings. The Summit resulted in a view the GEO should continue, with many strong country statements. Michael Brady suggested that GOFC-GOLD continue to view GEO as an important activity and strengthen its ties with GEO. GOFC-GOLD participated in a number of technical interventions at the Summit including the user interface committee meeting. GOFC-GOLD

contributed to the GEO publication “The Full Picture”. 100 copies have been purchased for participants and others involved in GOFC-GOLD activities. **Action:** Erin Naydenov and Jacqueline Sambale to develop a mailing list and distribute publication.

- Michael Brady reported that there was an IGOS meeting at the GEO Ministerial Summit, where John Townshend presented the final version of the IGOL report which was formally approved. John Townshend also presented the IGOL theme at the user interface committee meeting; there was discussion on how to integrate IGOL into GEO activities that resulted in several suggestions. .

3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- Accra fire EWS requirements workshop results: Johann Goldammer reported that the EWS meeting was successful. West Africa and Sub-Sahara Africa were well represented. The workshop report is being drafted. One of the goals resulting from the workshop is to publish user or demand oriented early warning and monitoring products. The preliminary results of this workshop were presented at the GEO Ministerial Summit. Michael Brady reported that GOFC-GOLD fire activities related to the fire EWS task in the GEO work plan were presented in a poster display and in a number of GEO documents presented to Ministers. There will be an international EWS meeting in Canada in June 2008. **Action:** Fire IT will create an initial concept and form a Steering Committee.
- IT membership and planning: Proposed changes in membership were presented to the Executive Committee for endorsement. Chris Eldvidge and Mastura Mahmud are departing from the IT. New members Bill DeGroot (Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service) and K.V.S. Badrinath (Indian Remote Sensing Institute) were endorsed by the ExComm. Ivan Csiszar reported that the Fire IT has applied for project office support funding from NASA’s Applied Science Program.
- Ivan Csiszar reported that the book chapter based on the Montreal IT meeting report is being finalized. The content has been updated with the current status of GOFC-GOLD Fire. Chris Justice is drafting the Thessaloniki Fire IT meeting report. The land direct broadcast working group, resulting from the October Direct Broadcast meeting in Mexico, is moving ahead.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- IT October meeting results: Curtis Woodcock reported that the LC IT is pushing to get the CEOS land constellation to collect high resolution observations required to fill the data gap. Michael Brady reported that this topic is a part of a GEO task, where the task leaders should be approached to steer the tasks towards the data gap issue. The Ministerial Summit was focused on showcasing GEO for the Ministers, and thus did not involve substantial discussions on this topic. One of the GTOS statements did address the continuity issue, so the issue is on the agenda of GEO. Tony Janetos reported that the LC IT wants the continuity issue assignment. He suggested that the IT must work with the GEO task leader, Bryan Badey (USGS), to get this assignment. The LC IT meeting report is being developed. The draft REDD sourcebook is available for comment from the LC IT. A new draft of the ECV descriptions for land cover has been prepared with substantial input from Mike Wulder.
- Proposed IT membership changes: Curtis Woodcock reported that there are a two nominations for new IT member, Devendra Pandey (Director of the Forest Survey of India) and Carlos Souza (IMAZON – Brazil). The new members were endorsed by the ExComm. At the IT meeting in Boston it was suggested that efforts be made to make the LC IT less North American and European centric, and to draw the Regional Networks more into the

functioning of GOF-C-GOLD. One member from each RN could join one of the IT's. The issue of having IT participants from the private sector was discussed. Chris Schmillius suggested that status on IT's be given to guest participants. This issue is most relevant for the European Earth observation community as industry is increasingly active in operational land cover and land use/change mapping. **Action:** Project Office will prepare an issues paper and organize a separate telcon to discuss this issue. Ivan Csiszar reported that the Fire IT is also interested in the issue of increased RN involvement. The RN representatives to the Fire IT are responsible for specific objectives.

- UNFCCC REDD results: Martin Herold has posted the draft REDD sourcebook for comment from the LC IT. Michael Brady reported that the REDD issue has become an important topic for the COP. The REDD issue is now formally accepted as a part of the discussion for the post 2012 period.
- Chris Schmillius reported that ESA has an upcoming call on biomass mapping. There will be a user consultation meeting in September on land cover change and permafrost. The goal is to produce a large area product for permafrost issues. There is a call from the European Commission regarding scientific infrastructure in Russia.

5. Regional Networks

- RN December telcon results: Erin Naydenov reported that NERIN, SEARRIN and WARN participated (http://nofc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/gofc-gold/Minutes/RN_2.pdf). Narisara Thongboonchoo reported that there is a lack of knowledge of SEARRIN and GOF-C-GOLD fire activities in Thailand, and would like to find opportunities to promote RN activities in East Asia. The two GOF-C-GOLD meetings planned in East Asia (spring and fall 2008) will try to incorporate fire as a topic on the agenda to increase visibility. There are four area's of interest for the RN resulting from the Fire IT meeting including; global validation of regional burned area products, the global fire assessment, ongoing regional capacity building and the global fire danger system. The GOF-C-GOLD website was also addressed to update dead links to RN websites and to host a webpage for RN's that do not have their own websites. The next RN telcon is planned for 13 March 2008.
- West Africa network meeting results: Michael Brady reported that the Accra events were successful. The WARN was consolidated and is moving forward. The WARN would like to engage with some of the IT activities. The WARN meeting report is being drafted. WARN representatives were identified and a Secretariat is being developed. The other three African RN's participated in the WARN meeting and provided good inputs on the functioning and development of RN's.
- START update: As the 2008 event schedule is finalized, START can begin to allocate 2008 NASA funds.
- Other RN activities: Erin Naydenov reported that the NERIN workshop on Land Cover Mapping at High Latitudes is 9-11 July in Syktyvkar Russia (NE of Moscow). ExComm members are invited to participate. **Action:** ExComm members to advise Olga Krankina on availability to participate in the workshop.

6. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for Thursday 17 January 2008 at 10:30 ET

7. List of Documents Circulated

1. December update for event schedule 2007/2008
2. GEO Ministerial Summit: Declarations and GTOS statement

3. October LC IT meeting minutes
4. December RN telcon minutes

GOFC-GOLD Project Office