

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 17 January 2008

Participants: Tony Janetos, Michael Brady, Curtis Woodcock, Ivan Csiszar, Garik Gutman, Johann Goldammer, Jaqueline Sambale, Chris Schnullius, Olga Krankina, Philippe Mayaux, Reuben Sessa, Lisa Bowker and Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- ExComm meeting to be held either following the NEESPI meeting or the LCLUC meeting
- GOFC-GOLD to lead a user needs activity for the GEO agriculture societal benefit area
- New Fire IT member endorsed by the ExComm
- 2nd Forest and Land Cover Change Symposium to be held in October at Jena, Germany
- STB meeting is tentatively being planned as part of the Jena Symposium

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- 2008 event schedule and confirmation of key events: Tony Janetos reviewed the updated event schedule. The FRA 2010 kick off at FAO, Rome, will be 3-7 March. The GEO/CEOS land surface imaging task team meeting is from 25-29 February. John Townsheld is planning an East Asian workshop in the spring; this could be coordinated with the LSI meeting. The ExComm face to face meeting will either be following the NEESPI meeting in Helsinki 2-5 June; or following the LCLUC meeting 1-2 May at Maryland. The Fire IT will add their activities to the schedule. **Action:** Michael Brady will forward a report by Alan Granger on the FRA to the ExComm.
- IT membership criteria: Michael Brady reviewed the draft IT membership criteria document. There are 8 criteria to guide membership selection. The most important guide for membership is scientific and technical expertise in the thematic areas. If an individual is appropriate for membership following the guidelines then there should be no conflict of interest for industry representation. **Action:** ExComm will send in comments on the membership guidelines by 15 February.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: Reuben Sessa reported that the next step following the COP 13 in Bali is to develop the framework mechanism based on the criteria that the SBSTA provided at Bali. The mechanism will likely involve WMO, ISO and FAO, UNEP may also be involved. The finalization of the assessment of the standards is ongoing; Hans Dolman may assign individuals to assess each of the essential climatic variables. Tony Janetos expressed concerns over the lack of GTOS science steering committee communications and a potential GTOS reorganization. Reuben Sessa reported that the GTOS sponsors are discussing narrowing the activities of GTOS due to the reduced budget. The activities on biodiversity and coastal areas may be narrowed. The activities of TOPC, GOFC-GOLD and TCO would remain as the main components of GTOS. The sponsors will provide a list of their priority areas, which will be integrated to develop a revised strategy and mandate for GTOS. There may be a steering committee meeting in April/May 2008. **Action:** Reuben Sessa will send tentative GTOS activities to add to the event schedule.
- GEO Tasks: Michael Brady reported on the land surface imaging task in which GOFC-GOLD is interested in participating. GOFC-GOLD is involved in the user interface committee, where a new activity is to assemble user needs for the nine societal benefit areas.

Lawrence Friedl (NASA) is coordinating this activity. The GOF-C-GOLD project office has taken the lead on this activity for agriculture societal benefit area. An analyst, Lisa Bowker, will work with the advisory group to identify and complete user needs assessment reports to identify gaps and priorities. The advisory group will be comprised of representatives of the Forest Community of Practice, GEO agricultural monitoring team and the IGOL theme team. This will be a two year process. Doug Muchoney, GEO Secretariat, is leading efforts to hold a GEO Forest Symposium 13-17 May at Parana, Brazil. GOF-C-GOLD would like to reduce the scope and to steer it towards the GEO forest and land cover tasks. Tony Janetos indicated that it was too early for the symposium as it follows too close to the GEO Ministerial summit and the COP 13 in Bali.

3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- Activities and plans: Johann Goldammer and Chris Justice are involved in the first European PhD fire course at Wageningen University in partnership with the UN University (<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/course/uni/course-flyer-wageningen.pdf>). The Fire IT book chapter on the Fire IT program is complete and will be available shortly. Ivan Csiszar reported that Lilia Manzo, a scientist from the University of Mexico, may spend a year with the Department of Geography at the University of Maryland to work on fire danger and fire risk estimation in the context of the global initiative. NASA will have a fire science workshop, 20-22 February, at the University of Maryland in which the Fire IT will be involved.
- IT membership: Ivan Csiszar suggested Steve Ambrose (NASA) as a new team member of the IT. Steve Ambrose would be instrumental in helping with the new fire program that is being developed at NASA; he is interested in supporting the GEO activities and is a focal point for airborne Earth observing systems. Steve Ambrose was endorsed by the ExComm. **Action:** Project office to issue an invitation letter.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and plans: The LC IT will send a letter to the FAO to provide feedback on the objectives for FRA 2010. Chris Schmullius suggested that another forest and land cover change symposium be held in October at Jena, Germany. This meeting would focus on the finalization of the IGOL document, the transfer of IGOL to GEO, GEO task responsibilities, and the European fast track service-land. The GOF-C-GOLD STB meeting may be added to the symposium. STAR and CFS funds will be available and ESA support will be sought. **Action:** Chris Schmullius will put together an outline of the symposium events and will determine a tentative date. Curtis Woodcock reported that at the Landsat science team meeting a new Landsat data policy was distributed that would open the archives to free access.
- IT membership: The project office will prepare thank you letters for those participants departing from the LC IT.

5. Regional Networks

- Activities and plans: Olga Krankina reported that there have been a few technical issues with the RN telcons where participants are unable to connect. The Jena symposium plans should be reported at the next RN telcon on March 13. **Action:** A representative from the LC IT office in Jena will participate on the next RN telcon. The minutes from the last RN telcon have been posted on the GOF-C-GOLD website. Olga Krankina requested that LCCS be

presented at the upcoming NERIN workshop in Russia on mapping of land cover in high latitudes. **Action:** Reuben Sessa will determine if a GTOS/FAO representative is available.

- West Africa network meeting results: Philippe Mayaux reported that the first draft of the WARN workshop report was circulated to the organizing committee in early December to review. The JRC is beginning to draft the roadmap for the next 10 years of space and technologies in Africa, in which GOFC-GOLD input will be sought.
- START work plan and budget planning status: START has received the final NASA allocation approval for the second year's project funds. The event schedule should be finalized and sent to START for budget planning.

6. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for Thursday 21 February 2008 at 10:30 ET

7. List of Documents Circulated

1. January update for event schedule 2008
2. IT membership criteria (draft)
3. GEO User interface process description
4. GEO LSI task description

GOFC-GOLD Project Office