

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 17 April 2008**

Participants: Tony Janetos, Michael Brady, Philippe Mayaux, Martin Herold, Curtis Woodcock, Chris Justice, Jacqueline Sambale, Olga Krankina, Reuben Sessa, Kathleen Landauer, Lisa Bowker and Erin Naydenov

### **Highlights and Action Items**

- Executive Committee to meet at the Jena Land Cover Symposium in October 2008
- Forest Observation Community of Practice to attend the May GEO meeting at Toronto
- The Fire Danger Rating workshop confirmed for 14-18 July in Edmonton
- LC IT members drafting a paper on improving the role of Earth observations in reporting guidelines by the IPCC
- START/CFS support has been allocated for 2008/09 GOFC-GOLD activities

### **Details**

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

- 2008 Schedule, agendas for key events: The next ExComm meeting tentatively scheduled for Helsinki will not fit several Executive Committee members' schedules. The Executive Committee meeting will be held as a part of the Land Cover Symposium in Jena, October 2008.

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

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: Reuben Sessa reviewed the GTOS summary that was distributed prior to the telcon. TOPC had a telcon to discuss several items including; the finalization of the standards for the terrestrial ECV's, the development of an adequacy report to ensure that the current ECV's are still relevant, and working with GCOS. The next TOPC meeting is tentatively planned for 29-30 October in Rome. GOFC-GOLD and TCO are welcome to send a representative to upcoming TOPC meetings. TOPC Panel members will coordinate the finalization of the assessment reports of the terrestrial ECV's. Chris Justice and Michael Brady requested that Ivan Csiszar continue to be the focal point for the fire ECV. Martin Herold is the focal point for the Land cover ECV. TCO is planning a workshop in Ghana and an ICOS conference will be held at the end of June. TCO has been developing manuals on methods and sampling protocols, which will be included in the GTOS publications list. GTOS has registered GOFC-GOLD for a UNFCCC side event on 28 September. GTOS attended the UNFCCC meeting in Mexico related to the Nairobi work plan. The main result was that the UNFCCC would like an adequacy report on what observations are required for local adaptation. GTOS and GCOS need to determine if they are able to undertake the activity. Participants indicated that they prefer data in a format that policy makers and local planners could use rather than raw data. GTOS may play a role in facilitating the mechanism of getting the raw data to an end product for policy makers. Tony Janetos indicated that one of the main purposes for creating GOFC-GOLD was to communicate with stakeholder communities and provide free and open access data. The IT's and RN's have been doing these activities and should be involved in activities that GTOS is undertaking in this regard. Reuben Sessa will include Michael Brady and Tony Janetos is related discussions. Olga Krankina recommended that support for LCCS outreach activities be increased to help prepare user communities to receive data. **Action:** Reuben Sessa will follow up with Antonio DeGregorio about presenting LCCS at the Syktyvar workshop in

July. **Action:** ExComm will send a note to John Latham about having LCCS presented at upcoming GOFC-GOLD events.

- GTOS reorganization: Reuben Sessa reported that the GTOS sponsors are meeting 29 May at the ICCP meeting. Reuben Sessa is preparing a document that lists the main priority areas, which will be distributed to the panel chairs and steering committee members for input. The list will then be presented at the sponsors meeting for discussion. Tony Janetos stressed the importance of a steering committee meeting to develop a future GTOS strategy.
- GEO tasks: Reuben Sessa requested that any inputs on the GEO work plan be submitted to GTOS by 1 May, so that all GTOS inputs can be submitted to the GEO Secretariat together. Philippe Mayaux reported on a recent biodiversity terrestrial network meeting, where a new action in the ecosystem societal benefit area / protected areas was discussed. The JRC has agreed to propose the new action on monitoring of protected areas. **Action:** Philippe Mayaux will send the proposal to Reuben Sessa to include in the GTOS proposal as well. **Action:** Martin Herold and Michael Brady will update the GEO task management matrix and distribute to the ExComm for input. Michael Brady will attend the GEO User Interface Committee meeting in May in Toronto to represent the Forest Observation Community of Practice. **Action:** Curtis Woodcock will continue to follow up on the Forest Symposium with Doug Muchoney and update the ExComm on plans. Michael Brady indicated that there is an opportunity to include GEO issues at the Amazon Basin workshop in Brazil in September.

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

- Activities and plans: Chris Justice reported that the Fire EWS Edmonton meeting is confirmed for 14-18 July. Ivan Csiszar, Tim Lynham, and Emilio Chuvieco are involved in the planning. The Fire IT is looking for opportunities to engage the RN's in the Global Fire Assessment. The assessment will be promoted at the upcoming SAFNet workshop and the November Southeast Asia workshop. The Fire IT will work with the JRC to ensure that there is consensus on the products that are going to be used in the assessment. The RN's will have access and support to utilize the products. Chris Justice reported on the recent Direct Broadcast workshop at Bangkok. The DB working group is looking for an institution to work under and is considering GOFC-GOLD. The ExComm endorsed this arrangement.

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

- Report on recent telcon, activities and plans: Curtis Woodcock reported on the recent LC IT telcon. The plans for the October Land Cover Symposium are moving ahead, there is a draft agenda available and a website (<http://www.gofc-gold.uni-jena.de/sites/Jena08.php>). The GEO forest workshop and REDD activities were discussed. The Global Validation – best available map proposal was rejected by NASA. There may be other opportunities for funding available from NASA. **Action:** Curtis Woodcock will draft a letter to CENES in support of providing high resolution SPOT imagery to support the Global Validation effort to be sent from the GEO Secretariat; Michael Brady will assist in contacting GEO representatives.
- Martin Herold reported on the GEO Asian Pacific workshop, where the GEO Secretariat plans to coordinate and foster REDD and forest carbon activities. Japan and Australia are very active in these activities and should be represented on the LC-IT team. Through the GOFC-GOLD REDD working group, Frederick Achard has been asked to draft a paper on how to improve the role of Earth observations in reporting guidelines by the IPCC, which is to be submitted at the Bonn SBSTA meeting in June.

## **5. Regional Networks**

- Report on recent telcon, activities and plans: Olga Krankina reported on the 13 March RN telcon and reviewed the minutes. There are several opportunities for RN engagement in the FRA and Global Validation Network. A framework for RN involvement needs to be developed to present to the RN participants at the Jena symposium. **Action:** Chris Schmallius to send background information on LC IT activities to Olga Krankina. The next RN telcon is planned for 12 June.
- START update: Kathleen Landauer reported on the START project funds. The funds are divided in to two areas. The first is related to GOFC-GOLD meeting/workshop support. Support has been tentatively assigned to the meetings listed in the GOFC-GOLD event schedule. The second START funding area is for supporting data distribution activities for RNs. START also coordinates support for Tony Janetos' role as chair and Olga Krankina's role as RN coordinator. There is a request for support for the Odessa NEESPI meeting. The ExComm needs to determine the priority of funding and how to accommodate the additional activities.

## **6. Any other business**

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for Thursday 22 May 2008 at 10:30 EDT

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

1. April update for event schedule 2008
2. GEO-initiative on REDD – concept document
3. 17 March RN telcon minutes

GOFC-GOLD Project Office