

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 23 May 2008

Participants: Michael Brady, Martin Herold, Curtis Woodcock, Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, Chris Schnullius, Olga Krankina, Reuben Sessa

Highlights and Action Items

- New regional network being considered for the Black Sea region
- New version of LCCS to be released
- GOFC-GOLD engaged in new GEO task on forest carbon monitoring
- REDD Sourcebook to include fire mapping and monitoring
- GOFC-GOLD REDD working group participating in upcoming UNFCCC events
- New regional data initiative planned with networks, commencing with Africa pilot

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- 2008 Schedule, agendas for key events: Michael Brady reviewed the updated activity schedule for 2008 and noted that the fall period will be extremely busy for GOFC-GOLD with numerous events planned. Additional fall events should be planned with care.
- The LCIT is reviewing membership with a view to adding members from Japan and Australia to strengthen thematic expertise. Individuals will be identified and invited to the LC symposium at Jena in October. The Committee agreed that IT membership numbers should be determined by the respective co-chairs and their project office capacity.
- A new regional network is being considered based on interest expressed from the Black Sea region. This opportunity will be discussed at the upcoming NEESPI Regional European Meeting at Odessa 23-27 August. **Action:** Curtis will take the lead on this matter.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: Reuben Sessa provided a written report on GTOS activities, which was circulated. The draft GTOS strategy document still requires comments from the Committee, particularly on user needs section. **Action:** Reuben will send latest draft for Erin Naydenov to circulate. Regarding the ECV standards drafts, the GTOS steering committee meeting is planned for 1-3 December, the Committee requested further guidance from GTOS on a standardized template, consistent across all ECVs. **Action:** Reuben Sessa will follow up. On LCCS, Martin Herold reported on a discussion with Antonio DiGregorio on the new version (3), which contains large changes, and arrangements for Antonio to attend upcoming GOFC events to provide tutorials. **Action:** Reuben Sessa to discuss schedule with Antonio.
- GEO tasks: Curtis Woodcock reported on discussions with leads for the land cover and constellation tasks, respectively. The 2010 global data set issue is to be incorporated into the land cover task DA0702. **Action:** Martin Herold to discuss revision of task description with Curtis Woodcock. Martin Herold summarized new task on forest carbon monitoring in new work plan. He will attend a meeting at the GEOSEC in June to discuss the new task components. GOFC-GOLD will be one of the task leads. Norway, Japan and Australia have committed funds to this issue, but their links to the new task are to be determined. Michael Brady reported on the GEO User Interface Committee (UIC) meeting in May. He presented an update on the work of the Forest Observation Community of Practice, which includes

GOFC-GOLD. The UIC will soon be issuing a call for participation, which will be of interest to the GOFC-GOLD. The UIC is offering to circulate proposals among the GEO member countries and organizations for offers of support. **Action:** Michael Brady to provide more information and request proposals to forward to the UIC. The GEO forest symposium is back on track now planned for 3-7 November at Brazil. The Committee is concerned about the short preparation period, but agreed that GOFC-GOLD should be a co-sponsor for this event. **Action:** Michael Brady to correspond with Doug Muchoney at the GEOSEC on agenda matters.

3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- Activities and plans: Chris Justice reviewed the upcoming fire IT events, which are listed in the activity schedule. Highlights include: the Edmonton fire danger rating workshop is being organized by the project office and on track. The global validation initiative is being discussed with the CEOS working group. The SAFNet meeting is on track, although additional funding is required. The GFMC meeting in July is on track. Other thematic issues reported include: Ivan Csiszar is working with Martin Herold to add fire monitoring and mapping to the REDD Sourcebook. Ivan is also making progress on the GTOS fire ECV standards document.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Curtis Woodcock reported on the recent LC telcon (Minutes circulated). Curtis discussed a proposed new satellite (Kioto) proposed by Finland, designed for forest monitoring. **Action:** Curtis will organize comments from the LCIT on the proposal.
- Martin Herold reported on progress of the REDD working group, which is preparing a side event at the UNFCCC SBSTA meeting in June at Bonn. Appreciation goes to GTOS for arranging the event. This event will provide the first direct contact between the working group and the IPCC, an important step in the Sourcebook development. The working group is also preparing for a SBSTA REDD meeting later in June at Tokyo.

5. Regional Networks

- Activities and plans: Olga Krankina reported that plans for a new RN data initiative have been prepared as part of the NASA/START grant to GOFC-GOLD. Letters requesting collaboration and support have been sent to USGS, UNEP and SDSU. The first activity of the initiative is an Africa pilot involving specialist from the 4 Africa RNs to visit the EDC in second half of 2008. Olga also reported on several other RN activities including the upcoming NERIN workshop in Russia; planning for the June RN telcon and the need for IT participation to explain their plans and identify opportunities to engage the RNs; and a request to the LCIT to provide an agenda for the Jena October symposium so that the RN meeting can be planned.

6. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for late June 2008.

7. List of Documents Circulated

1. May update for event schedule 2008
2. GTOS May report
3. Minutes of Land Cover IT telcon, May 2008