

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 24 July 2008**

Participants: Tony Janetos, Michael Brady, Johann Goldammer, Martin Herold, Philippe Mayaux, Curtis Woodcock, Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, Garik Gutman, Olga Krankina, Kathleen Landauer, Erin Naydenov

### **Highlights and Action Items**

- The global land cover validation exercise has received funding from NASA
- GEO UIC will accept proposals to circulate to the GEO membership for support
- Version 2 of the REDD sourcebook is available online

### **Details**

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

- IT membership matters/changes: Martin Herold reported that two Australian participants have been invited to the Jena symposium, which may become more active in LC IT activities. Ivan Csiszar reported that he is moving from the University of Maryland to NOAA and this may impact his role on the Fire IT.
- 2008 activity schedule: Erin Naydenov requested detailed travel requests for the upcoming SAFNet, RedLatif and Jena meetings. This will allow funds to be reallocated as required.

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

- GEO tasks: The draft GEO workplan from 2009-2011 has been distributed. There is a new task being formulated on Forest Monitoring for Carbon. The major GEO tasks that GOFC-GOLD is involved in are Land Cover, Fire EWS, Forest Monitoring, and the new Forest Monitoring for Carbon task. Many of the forest tasks have been amalgamated into one framework task with many subtasks. GOFC-GOLD will provide comments on the GEO workplan to the GEO Secretariat. The workplan will remain a draft until the GEO plenary in Beijing in November 2008. The Geostationary task is no longer highlighted in the draft workplan. The Land Surface Imaging task is ongoing; there may be a merged activity with the CEOS land imaging initiative. **Action:** Michael Brady and Martin Herold will draft comments on the workplan and circulate among the ExComm prior to submitting to the GEO Secretariat.
- The GEO User Interface and Architecture Committee meeting is in Boulder, mid September. The committee will accept short proposals from GEO members to circulate to the GEO membership for support. Curtis Woodcock may submit a proposal. This may be an opportunity for the Fire EWS. Michael Brady will participate in the committee meeting and is on the committee that will receive and circulate the proposals. Chris Justice suggested that an overarching proposal be submitted for RN support, including both Fire and LC. The International Tropical Timber Organization has expressed interested in the Fire EWS proposal. The Global Fire Assessment proposal may also be submitted.
- GEO is divided into regional caucuses'. There is a GEOSS in the Americas caucus, which will hold their second meeting in late September in Panama. There will be a session on Forest Monitoring for Carbon. GOFC-GOLD is looking to involve the REDD working group and Latin American RN's. The GEO Forest Symposium is scheduled for early November, in which GOFC-GOLD will participate in relevant task sessions.

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

- Activities and plans: Chris Justice reported that the FDR meeting held in Edmonton was successful. The Global Fire Early Warning System was presented by Tim Lynham. There were discussions on the conjugation of individual systems to the GOFC-GOLD fire objective. The workshop of the wildland fire community held in Freiburg was also successful. Ivan Csiszar reported that there will be a MSG (Meteosat Second Generation) land surface applications meeting, charged with drought and fires, in Sofia, Bulgaria, 7-10 September 2009. The meeting will be endorsed and supported by GOFC-GOLD. The regional wildland fire networks will participate. This meeting could be linked to the development of an Eastern European RN. There will be a MAIRS/GOFC-GOLD Land Cover/Land Use Change meeting in Thailand in January 2009. Johann Goldammer suggested that Nepal champion a South Asia RN and be a venue for regional workshops.

### 4. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and plans: Martin Herold reported that the plans for the Jena symposium in underway. Next steps include drafting agenda's for the various sessions and determining RN participants. The global land cover validation exercise has received funding from NASA.
- REDD working group update: The REDD working group had a side event at the UNFCCC SBSTA event in Bonn in June ([http://unfccc.metafusion.com/kongresse/SB28/templ/ply\\_page.php?id\\_kongresssession=1218&player\\_mode=isdn\\_real](http://unfccc.metafusion.com/kongresse/SB28/templ/ply_page.php?id_kongresssession=1218&player_mode=isdn_real)). Version 2 of the sourcebook is available online. GOFC-GOLD presented to country negotiators at the UNFCCC REDD technical workshop in Tokyo. The sourcebook will be updated to include fire. There will be a one day workshop at the Jena symposium. There is a REDD validation adhoc working group, which had their first telcon in July. The global land cover validation exercise will contribute to the REDD validation working group. Olga Krankina suggested that the RNs contribute to, and be communicated with regarding the REDD validation working group. Philippe Mayaux attended the recent FRA 2010 team meeting, where he proposed that the relevant GOFC-GOLD and FAO Regional Networks link. The proposal was well received. The next WARN meeting is being planned for spring 2009, where there will likely be a three day FRA meeting.

### 5. Regional Networks

- Activities and plans: The Syktyvkar workshop was successful; the local hosts were very helpful. LCCS training was provided; this should be considered for other RN workshops. One future NERIN meeting will be held in Kazakhstan to develop the non-boreal issues in fall 2009. Garik Gutman commented that it is valuable to meet at research nodes, rather than meeting in the large centres. The Eastern European proposal will be presented at the Odessa workshop in August. Pauline Dube has requested additional support for the upcoming SAFNet workshop as training and field tour components have been added. The project office has additional funds in place for the SAFNet meeting. The Amazon Basin RN workshop has been postponed until late 2008/early 2009. Cheikh Mbow of WARN has requested year one operational support. **Action:** Philippe Mayaux and Michael Brady to discuss WARN funding. **Action:** Ivan Csiszar to follow up with Carlos Di Bella on support needs for the upcoming RedLatif meeting.
- RN support guide: In general GOFC-GOLD does not provide operational support. The expectations are that the RN's would become self supporting. Support for specific activities (training, workshops, travel) may be supported on a case by case basis. A RN support guide

needs to be developed. Institutional commitment is required in many cases so that the bulk of the RN work does not fall on the volunteer efforts of one individual. The GOFC-GOLD ExComm had agreed to seek core RN funding to make things easier for the RN's to function (World Bank, GES, etc), which should be renewed. Projects could be funded, in which operational activities could be linked to. Tony Janetos suggested that this topic be a major discussion point at the Jena Symposium. **Action:** Project Office to draft a RN support guideline prior to the next RN telcon for comment.

- Workshop guidelines: A set of guidelines should be developed for running a GOFC-GOLD style workshop. **Action:** Olga Krankina will develop a rough draft.
- START update: The data initiative is moving ahead. The USGS has responded positively, a more formal response is expected. The pilot project includes a group of participants from Africa spending time at the EROS data centre. Olga Krankina suggested that delays are problematic for those individuals that will require visas. The details of the Africa pilot data initiative should be lined up prior to the RN meeting at the Jena Symposium.

#### **6. Any other business**

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 18 September 2008.

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

1. July update for event schedule 2008

GOFC-GOLD Project Office