

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 18 September 2008

Participants: Tony Janetos, Michael Brady, Curtis Woodcock, Chris Justice, Garik Gutman, Olga Krankina, John Latham, Zubair Qamar, Jacqueline Sambale, Kathleen Landauer, Hassan Virji, Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- 2009 activity plan now being prepared by the Project Office
- GTOS steering committee meeting planned for the first quarter of 2009
- EROS confirms support for the data initiative proposal
- Next Regional Networks telcon is 9 October 2008
- Eastern European RN highlighted at NEESPI meeting
- GOFC-GOLD to co-organize GEO Forest Symposium at Brazil

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- 2008 activity schedule: Tony Janetos mentioned that the schedule is very full including a number of GEO activities. How GOFC-GOLD will support all of the GEO activities will need to be discussed. Any 2009 activities should be sent to the Project Office to incorporate into the schedule for budget purposes.
- Fall 2008 telcon schedule: Teleconferences will continue on the 3rd Thursday of each month, Curtis Woodcock will try to dial-in following his teaching commitments.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: John Latham introduced Zubair Qamar, who has joined FAO and GTOS on September 1st. There was a GTOS strategy meeting in May at the ICPC meeting in which the sponsors reviewed the observing systems and their future commitments to the program. Don Hinsman prepared an outline of the scope of a GTOS strategy document which will be a summary of GTOS +10 and others. This is to be populated by Barrien Moore, then once finalized, form the basis of discussion document for the GTOS steering Committee. The GTOS steering committee meeting is planned for the first quarter of 2009 in Paris. GTOS panel support is weak this year, WMO and UNEP have not sent financial support to GTOS for 2008 due to internal matters. Currently the financial cost for GTOS is being carried by FAO. GTOS will not be able to financially support the Jena land cover symposium.
- At the next UNFCCC GTOS may host a side event with GOFC-GOLD on the REDD source book, depending on approval of the GTOS sponsors. GTOS has been requested to host a side event on the ECV's. John Latham will write to the UNFCCC to request their consideration for GTOS to hold these two events.
- John Latham indicated that the Land Cover ECV document is very comprehensive, thanks to the efforts of the LC IT members. The Biomass ECV is weak, and additional input from GOFC-GOLD would be appreciated. The ECV's will be discussed at the upcoming TOPC meeting in Rome on 29-30 October, chaired by Hans Dolman. A fire representative may be added to the team; however a decision has not yet been made. A GOFC-GOLD representative is invited to the TOPC meeting, Tony Janetos is considering participating.
- LCCS has been superseded by a recent submission to ISO. LCML is a high level metadata language, which is a full UML model for land cover. LCML has been formulated in the ISO

TC 2 on 1 framework as a UML model that is compatible with all of the other ISO standards. Antonio DiGregorio could provide an update on LCCS and LCML.

- There is an open science meeting on the Africa and the Carbon cycle under the Carbo Africa project in Accra, Ghana from 23-25 November 2008. GOFc-GOLD membership is encouraged to participate either from the RN's or the IT's. **Action:** Michael Brady will follow up with Cheikh Mbow to see if any WARN members are linked to the Carbo Africa project.
- GEO tasks: There are 4 GEO events this fall. Multiple GEO committee meetings are being held late September in Boulder Colorado. The GEOSS in the Americas meeting will be held in Panama at the end of September, where Michael Brady and Carlos Souza will co-chair a forest session. The GEO Forest Symposium will be held in Brazil in early November, in which GOFc-GOLD will co-chair 2-3 sessions. Michael Brady, John Townshend, Tom Loveland, Curtis Woodcock, Martin Herold and possibly Chris Schmuilius will attend the symposium. There was a request for GOFc-GOLD to organize a fire session there, where RedLatif should be encouraged to participate. The GEO plenary is in November, where GOFc-GOLD will be represented through the GTOS allocation. The GEO Secretariat is developing a two year work plan; there is a concern that the forest theme has been shifted in the plan. Initially the forest theme was integrated in the agriculture societal benefit area; however this has now been moved to the global datasets theme. This will be discussed at the Boulder meeting. Tony Janetos indicated that this shift may be due to the growing importance of the REDD issue in the climate debate.

3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- Activities and plans: Ivan Csiszar has moved from the University of Maryland to NOAA. Ivan Csiszar will participate in the upcoming RedLatif meeting in Argentina 22-24 October 2008.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and plans: Curtis Woodcock reported there will be good participation in the Jena symposium. Jacqueline Sambale reported that the organization is ongoing. The symposium will be over 5 days and will be made up of several workshops. The individual workshop agendas are available online. The full symposium program and detailed agendas are available online (<http://www.gofc-gold.uni-jena.de/sites/Jena08.php>).

5. Regional Networks

- Activities and plans: Olga Krankina reported that preparations for the Jena RN meeting are on track. There is travel support available for at least one member from each RN. **Action:** ExComm participants will confirm their availability to present at the RN workshop with Olga Krankina. There will be an RN telcon on 9 October in preparation for the workshop. Garik Gutman reported on the NEESPI meeting in Odessa, where there was a call for an Eastern European RN. There was a representative from Hungary who has offered to be a focal point for the potential RN. Garik Gutman indicated that he will not be able to participate in the Jena symposium due to institutional reasons. Michael Brady reported that the project office is having difficulties providing funds quickly for the SAFNet meeting due to Canadian government regulations.

- Data Initiative: The data initiative will be a substantial topic at the RN workshop in Jena. Michael Brady reported that Tom Loveland has confirmed that the proposal is with the EROS group, who is very interested in supporting the proposal. Details will be provided by Tom Loveland at the Jena RN workshop. **Action:** Add an agenda item for Tom Loveland for the RN workshop.
- START update: Kathleen Landauer reported START has been working on the upcoming SAFNet and RedLatif meetings.

6. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 20 November 2008, following the face to face ExComm meeting at the Jena Symposium.

7. List of Documents Circulated

1. September update for event schedule 2008

GOFC-GOLD Project Office