

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 20 November 2008**

Participants: Tony Janetos, Garik Gutman, Michael Brady, Martin Herold, Curtis Woodcock, Chris Justice, Zubair Qamar, Kathleen Landauer, Erin Naydenov

### **Highlights and Action Items**

- ESA extends support for LC IT project office
- REDD working group holds side event at COP 14 at Poznan
- Burned area validation session planned for MAIRS/SEARRIN workshop at Thailand
- Discussions underway for of a Biomass working group
- Africa pilot initiated for GOFC-GOLD Data Initiative

### **Details**

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

- 2008/2009 schedule: Tony Janetos requested ExComm to send 2009 activities to the project office to update the activity schedule for future planning.
- IT & ExComm membership matters/changes: Olivier Arino of ESA was endorsed to be invited to join the ExComm. **Action:** Project Office will send an invitation letter.

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

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: Zubair Qamar reported that the GTOS Steering Committee meeting is planned for the first quarter of 2009. Tony Janetos requested that the dates be finalized quickly to allow members to arrange their participation.
- GTOS will have a side event and booth at COP 14 in Poznan on December 3rd. John Latham will present to SBSTA on research and systematic observations on December 2nd.
- The TOPC meeting was held in Rome on 29-30 October. Biomass was covered by Shaun Quegan with input from Riccardo Valentini, Chair of the TCO technical panel. The ECVs will be updated prior to COP 14, then finalized for submission to the SBSTA in Bonn. The TOPC meeting report will be finalized soon. **Action:** Zubair Qamar to distribute the TOPC report to the ExComm when completed.
- Martin Herold reported that the 2-page summaries on Land Cover and Biomass, which were updated at the Jena Symposium, have been submitted to the UNFCCC for the COP. The long reports are not required for the Poznan COP as the topics are not on the agenda. The draft copies will be made available to stimulate more input at the COP. GTOS is providing feedback on the GCOS implementation plan and the 2009 progress report. Reuben Sessa is the contact for any GOFC-GOLD inputs to the implementation plan.
- GEO tasks: Michael Brady reported on the GEOSS in the Americas Symposium at Panama, where there was a forest monitoring session. The draft report is available at: [http://www.cathalac.org/GEOSS\\_Americas/draft\\_final\\_rept\\_geoss\\_americas\\_symposium\\_2008.pdf](http://www.cathalac.org/GEOSS_Americas/draft_final_rept_geoss_americas_symposium_2008.pdf). Five GOFC-GOLD members participated in the Forest Symposium at Brazil. Michael Brady attended the GEO annual plenary in Bucharest, where the Forest Symposium summary was presented and well supported. The 2009-2011 GEO work plan was approved in principle. One concern is that the main GTOS task is categorized under the climate societal benefit area. The task may be moved back to the transverse area category. There is a new carbon tracking sub task, where GOFC-GOLD is a co-lead. The upcoming ISRSE conference in Stressa may be used to hold a planning meeting for the carbon sub-task. Abstracts should be submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup>. The next GEO plenary will be held in the USA. Norway has

provided the UN agencies with funds for the REDD issue. This may be an opportunity to seek additional support for the REDD Sourcebook.

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

- Activities and plans: Chris Justice reported that the Fire ECV document has been submitted to GTOS. The Fire IT will work on adding fire to the REDD sourcebook, likely to be lead by Danilo Mollicone. A burned area validation session is being planned for the MAIRS/SEARRIN workshop in Thailand. A validation session is being planned for the EARSeL meeting in 2009. The RedLatif workshop was a success and should be considered a model for Regional Networks. SAFNet has gone through a re-organization and efforts should be made to encourage the new leads. There is a possibility for holding the next Fire IT meeting at Sofia in September 2009. There will be an interagency operational fire meeting in Maryland, where the work of GOF-C-GOLD will be presented. The global fire assessment 2010 will be the main work objective of the IT in 2009.

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

- Activities and plans: Martin Herold reported that ESA will extend support for the LC IT project office until 2012. There will be a REDD side event at COP 14 on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a REDD capacity building event at the IPCC and there will be another at Brazil, 4-6 February. The next Source Book update should be ready in early 2009. Capacity building efforts should be done per country and focus on land use/area change assessment. The regional networks should be involved in this to learn about the process, as well as to present their regional network remote sensing and land change assessment experts for various regions, so that countries are aware of the expertise in their region. There is funding in place for 5-6 regional network participants. **Action:** Martin Herold to develop a list of names to invite to the Brazil meeting. The LC IT is working on a proposal to seek support for the global validation initiative; both ESA and NASA are interested in supporting this activity.
- Biomass working group: Initial discussions have begun on the development of a Biomass working group. The working group would be involved in ECV development, and biomass and carbon assessments. A face to face meeting in early 2009 may be held to initiate the group. Tony Janetos cautioned that the goals and products of the working group need to be clear, so that outside expectations of the group are realistic. The group could focus on getting the research community to thinking about viable products, define the remote sensing products that could contribute to an understanding of biomass globally, and contribute to standards on how to evaluate/validate biomass. The forest inventory community should be involved. **Action:** Chris Schmillius to provide the ExComm with a terms of reference for the biomass working group.
- Tony Janetos suggested that a separate working group could evaluate the need for an implementation team on land use.

### **5. Regional Networks**

- Activities and plans: Erin Naydenov reported that 6 regional networks participated in the 9 October telcon. Several regional activities have been added to the activity schedule. WARN has submitted a request for support as a new network. **Action:** ExComm to send comments on the proposal to the Project Office. This fits into the funding guidelines as WARN is a new network. ExComm endorsed the RN funding guidelines, which were developed to clarify what activities can be funded, to ensure consistency in how requests are dealt with and outline a reasonable time frame to handle requests. As GOF-C-GOLD does not provide

general operational support, support is provided for clearly defined tasks and activities. Start up support may be provided to new networks (website, brochures, etc), but long term institutional support will be required from other sources.

- Data Initiative: Kathleen Landauer reported that four participants have been identified to participate in the Africa pilot. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer to call David Roy to determine the representative from SAFNet. A working group on the data initiative should be organized to plan the logistics for the pilot phase. At the Jena RN workshop, the last two weeks of April 2009 were identified as a likely date for the Africa pilot team to visit EDC at South Dakota. Tom Loveland is planning to distribute a questionnaire to the participants ahead of the session to determine data requirements and the current software and hardware that is being used in the region, so that decisions can be made ahead of time. The pilot phase should be publicized to obtain additional support for the pilot, as well as the next round of training. Longer term issues that were identified at the workshop include: regional communication that the data is available, regional outreach/demonstration/education workshops, need for country data nodes in addition to regional nodes, and that those selected for training will need time and institutional support as they will likely be required to train those requesting data.
- Radarsat: There will be a Canadian funded workshop on Agricultural Monitoring in 2009, in which use of the Radarsat archive will be addressed. CSA has requested that GOF-C-GOLD support them in a process to identify the science issues that could be addressed by releasing the archive. The CSA will be invited to observe the pilot phase of the Data Initiative in April to determine if the process would be relevant to the Radarsat archive. Tony Janetos recommended that GOF-C-GOLD submit a proposal to the CSA in response to their request. The proposal could be 2-3 pages outlining a potential process to open a dialog. **Action:** Project office to draft a proposal for ExComm input, and then submit to the CSA prior to 2009. Curtis Woodcock reported that the Brazilians expressed interest in the archive at the GEO Forest Symposium. The REDD group is also interested in Radar data.
- NASA LCLUC/MAIRS meeting: There is a LCLUC/MAIRS workshop in January 2009 in Thailand. Curtis Woodcock will lead a land use validation session, Michael Brady will lead efforts to revitalize SEARRIN, Chris Justice will co-lead a burned area validation session with Narisara Thongboonchoo, Garik Gutman and David Skole will also participate. The meeting may be used to get organized for a Southeast Asian Data Initiative activity at EDC.
- START update: Kathleen Landauer reported that START is working on the Data Initiative goals, objectives, and logistics. START will begin planning for the 2009 schedule. The renewal process for the next round of START/GOF-C-GOLD funding from NASA should begin. **Action:** Tony Janetos to take the lead the renewal process with contributions from the ExComm.

## **6. Any other business**

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

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

- November update for event schedule 2008/09
- RN funding guidelines
- WARN funding request
- RN telcon minutes, 9 Oct 08

GOF-C-GOLD Project Office