

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 18 December 2008

Participants: Tony Janetos, Garik Gutman, Michael Brady, Olivier Arino, Olga Krankina, Jacqueline Sambale, Martin Herold, Curtis Woodcock, Chris Justice, Zubair Qamar, Kathleen Landauer, Chris Schnullius, Johann Goldammer, Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- Fire ECV presented at GTOS side event at UNFCCC COP 14
- GOFC-GOLD invited to participate in the FRA 2010 regional workshops
- REDD source book updated to ensure relevance for capacity building
- Biomass special session planned for the Global Vegetation Workshop

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- 2008/2009 schedule: Upcoming events should be sent to the Project Office to add to the 2009 schedule. ExComm members to suggest ideas for the focus of the next START/GOFC-GOLD proposal to NASA. The proposal should be drafted early 2009 to be submitted by April 2009.
- IT & ExComm membership matters/changes: Olivier Arino of ESA was welcomed to the Executive Committee. Steffen Kuntz has accepted his invitation to be an industry associate member of the LC IT.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: Zubair Qamar reported on the UNFCCC COP 14, where GTOS had a booth and a side event. The GTOS booth showcased 10 draft full ECV documents; the documents should be finalized by the next SBSTA meeting in Bonn. The Fire ECV was presented at the GTOS side event “Enhancing country preparedness for post-Kyoto monitoring, assessment and action”. The webcast is available at: <http://copportal1.man.poznan.pl/Archive.aspx?EventID=58&Lang=floor> . Other side event webcasts are available at: <http://copportal1.man.poznan.pl/> , including “Global observations for climate prediction and adaptation” (Dec 3), and “UN system response to support REDD” (Dec 4). Reuben Sessa has distributed the updated biomass and land cover full ECV documents to GOFC-GOLD for input. The TOPC report has been drafted and circulated to participants for input. **Action:** The draft TOPC report will be distributed to GOFC-GOLD when finalized. The GTOS STB meeting is scheduled for the first quarter of 2009; however the dates have not been confirmed. **Action:** GTOS to send the Russian language version of the LCCS manual’s to a list of NERIN members.
- UNFCCC COP 14, GOFC-GOLD sourcebook side event update: Martin Herold reported on the GOFC-GOLD/Papua New Guinea REDD side event. The side event focused on degradation and capacity building, including a panel discussion on capacity building with Kevin Conrad (PNG), The World Bank, UN REDD and other countries. Capacity building will be a high priority in 2009, in which the UNFCCC Secretariat will take a strong coordination role. The Source Book is being updated to ensure it’s relevance for capacity building. Specifically, the area change component of national forest monitoring section will be updated in preparation for the Brazil capacity building event, 4-6 February. RN involvement in the Brazil event is being sought, to show countries that there is remote sensing expertise available in their regions. The FAO is focusing on REDD capacity building with support from Norway. The Source Book alone will not be enough to base capacity

building on; the role of GOF-C-GOLD will be discussed at the next REDD WG telcon. ESA has funds to carry out REDD activities over the next 3 years in the field of GMS services. A portion of the funds are designated for new REDD activities, within the frame work of the UNFCCC with guidance from GOF-C-GOLD.

- GEO tasks: The new GEO work plan was endorsed at the plenary in Bucharest. Michael Brady is co-organizing a side event at the ISRSE conference at Stressa, 4-8 May, as a part of the GOF-C-GOLD co-led Forest Community of Practice. The side event will be a one day workshop related to the GEO forest tasks, including the forest carbon tracking task. Chris Justice is organizing a GEO Agricultural Monitoring meeting in early 2009 at Beijing. Tony Janetos plans to meet with the GEO Secretariat, to reaffirm GOF-C-GOLD support and contribution to GEO, along with the GTOS steering committee meeting in the first quarter of 2009.

3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- Activities and plans: Chris Justice reported that the Fire IT is working on the ECV's, and is the lead on the Fire ECV. Ivan Csiszar is the NOAA representative in the CEOS Disaster SAB, and will contribute to the relevant tasks in CEOS IP, including fire. Johann Goldammer reported that the GFMC will continue discussions on the Global Fire Assessment in January, to determine financial resources and next steps. The GEO Secretariat has announced financing for large projects, for which a proposal may be submitted for the Fire EWS. There will be a fire component (standard protocols and validation) at the LCLUC-MAIRS meeting in January at Thailand. The Fire IT co-leads will have a planning telcon early 2009.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and plans: In January the LC IT will revisit the action item list from the Jena Symposium. FAO has invited GOF-C-GOLD to participate in capacity building events for the FRA 2010 regional workshops. Michael Brady has followed up with Adam Gerrand of FAO to formalize the contribution.
- Jena symposium follow-up: Reports are being drafted for the REDD, LC IT, and Accuracy Assessment workshops. The reports for the Boreal, Regional Network, and Strategy workshops will be prepared by the organizers of each individual workshop. The symposium resulted in a list of action items, including the plan to open and promote the GlobCover reference dataset.
- Plans for LC working group on biomass: The EU will support ESA to develop monitoring concepts for the ECV's. This will likely be followed by calls for international cooperation to launch monitoring projects, including biomass. There are operational biomass products available, including biomass change maps (Russia and China). ESA's commitment to Sentinel 1 and JAXA's commitment to ALOS 2 ensure that any biomass monitoring concept will be relevant for at least 10 years. A working group would help organize the biomass community, coordinate knowledge and should bring in the experience of VCF, LAI to NPP products. The next step is to organize a workshop to discuss the role of the potential WG. The group that has developed the biomass ECV could form the initial participants. The WG should involve the Lidar community, the interests of the U.S. Destiny mission, and the CEOS cal/val group (Frederick Baret). **Action:** Chris Schmillius will update the scoping document to include a tentative list of WG participants. There will be a one day special session focused on observing biomass as an essential climate variable at the Global Vegetation Workshop at Missoula on 15 June, which may also be the inauguration of a Biomass WG.

- Working group on accuracy assessment update: The WG is focused on best practices and planning for an operational global land cover validation with the CEOS cal/val group.

5. Regional Networks

- Activities and plans: The next RN telcon is planned for early January 2009. The REDD capacity building event in Brazil will be discussed. WARN has submitted a proposal for network support for two years. The ExComm should evaluate the request and where funds could come from. There are a few concerns over long term institutional support, and salary. Funds for new RNs are intended to be structured to ensure capacity building, provide start up support and help initiate projects. Support for administration could be provided through projects and activities. Support for unsustainable structures should not be supported. **Action:** Olga Krankina, Philippe Mayaux, Kathleen Landauer, Erin Naydenov and Michael Brady will discuss this issue and report back to the ExComm.
- GOFC-GOLD data initiative: Participants of the pilot phase of the data initiative should be finalized quickly. Dominick Kwesha was accepted as the Miombo representative.

6. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 27 January 2009.

7. List of Documents Circulated

- December update for event schedule 2008/09
- WARN funding proposal

GOFC-GOLD Project Office