

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 27 January 2009**

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

### **Highlights and Action Items**

- Chinese Academy of Forestry to lead an East Asia RN
- GOFC-GOLD co-leads Brazil workshop on REDD capacity building
- The IGOL theme report is available
- Thailand space agency to host 2<sup>nd</sup> GEO Forest Symposium in July
- Fire IT to host a session on burned area validation at the EARSeL SIG workshop

### **Details**

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

- 2009 schedule: The ExComm to determine the need for a 2009 STB meeting. EEA has invited Tony Janetos to a meeting in May 2009. The meeting details will be circulated to get input on whether GOFC-GOLD should be represented. Tony Janetos may attend the GEO UIC symposium in May at Stresa ISRSE Symposium.

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

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: The biomass ECV report has been distributed to GOFC-GOLD for input. The Russian translation of LCCS has been drafted; however still needs to be finalized before it is distributed. **Action:** Olga Krankina will suggest a person to assist GTOS with the translation work. John Latham has not determined the final dates of the GTOS steering committee; however it is still anticipated for the first quarter of 2009. The Fire ECV was submitted in December. **Action:** Zubair Qamar to determine the status of the Fire ECV. **Action:** Zubair Qamar to send the Project Office a list of key dates for the land cover, fire and biomass ECVs, leading up to the June SBSTA at Bonn. ESA has new initiatives that will rely on the finalized ECV's to plan several calls for proposals. ESA should be encouraged to coordinate land ECV related activities with GTOS. The IGOL theme report is available. **Action:** Zubair Qamar will distribute copies of the report to the ExComm members.
- GEO tasks: Michael Brady is involved in planning a GEO forest workshop with IEEE for the ISRSE symposium at Stresa. The workshop will review the forest related GEO tasks, as well as a meeting of the new GEO forest carbon tracking task. **Action:** Michael Brady will circulate the workshop announcement to the ExComm. There may be a 2<sup>nd</sup> GEO forest symposium in Thailand in July 2009. The Thailand Space Agency would be the local host. There is new GEO task template available for the task co-leads to update the task descriptions for the new GEO 2009/11 work plan. Martin Herold has submitted the updated sheet for the global land cover task, which was edited at the Jena Symposium in October. The Agricultural Monitoring workshop will take place in Beijing, 11-13 February, and will focus on strategic planning for the Agriculture task. The Agricultural monitoring task could be a way for GOFC-GOLD to move into a land use initiative. GOFC-GOLD may work with FAO to seek funding for the REDD initiative linked to the GEO task. A white paper should be drafted, to set the stage/define GOFC-GOLD's role relate to REDD, ahead of the Stresa symposium. GOFC-GOLD should review the draft task sheet and provide input. **Action:** Michael Brady to follow up with Alex Held on the tasks status. The task seems to be driven

by pilot projects and specific countries, rather than an internationally coordinated task. SAR is being promoted as a key data source for REDD monitoring. GOF-C-GOLD should be aggressive in taking a leadership role as use of SAR requires further development. The task is linked to setting up a SAR constellation. GOF-C-GOLD could set up a project in an area to integrate SAR data with what can be done with optical, and evaluate the strengths and requirements for SAR data. GOF-C-GOLD should tie in with existing projects to provide an international component rather than developing new projects, if possible. There are a few projects underway in Australia.

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

- Activities and plans: The Fire IT has updated the GEO task sheet for the Global Wildland Fire EWS. A report on the development of the EWS has been submitted through the WMO to the UN. Funds however are still lacking. Madagascar is involved in using MODIS to receive automated updates of fire locations. Anja Hofman has moved to the University of Maryland to complete her PhD on using RS to develop operational information systems, which may be implemented in Madagascar. There will be an international session on burned area validation at the Montana vegetation workshop in June. There will be a special session at the EARSel SIG workshop on burned area validation. The validation protocols are being developed in collaboration with the CEOS LPV. The IT is working to improve the fire component of the REDD Sourcebook. NOAA is working to implement the GlobCover Geostationary network, and has funds to further develop the system, which will involve the emissions community. CEOS is interested in supporting the GEO task on fire early warning systems. Increased communication between CEOS and the GEO task leads is required to avoid parallel activities. **Action:** Ivan Csiszar will follow up with Bill DeGroot on CEOS early warning activities. Through RedLatif, Gerardo Lopez (Mexico) will provide a 2 weeks training session at INTA (Argentina) to implement the direct readout fire system used at CONABIO.
- Report on MAIRS/LCLUC/SEARRIN meeting: The meeting report will be distributed to the ExComm late February. The meeting had several discussions on REDD and how it could be implemented, David Skole, who is tied into SEARRIN, participated. The SEARRIN meeting was useful, to encourage a new effort to coordinate SEARRIN activities. **Action:** Michael Brady will follow up on SEARRIN leadership with Sharifa Mastura. Indonesia emerged as a focal point for SEARRIN REDD activities. GOF-C-GOLD should look for opportunities for REDD capacity building workshops in the region. China announced plans to make all data above 30 m spatial resolution freely available. India also announced that a plan is being developed to make data freely available.

### 4. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and plans: The REDD WG had a telcon focused on the Source Book update. The next telcon will likely be in February. There will be a capacity building event in February at Brazil, in which several GOF-C-GOLD members will participate. The workshop is aimed to inform countries on remote sensing and programs. Regional Network workshops could include a REDD capacity building component, in which additional funds could be sought from the REDD funding agencies. GOF-C-GOLD should demonstrate leadership in coordinating capacity building for technical people, as GOF-C-GOLD has a structure in place (ref. SEARRIN above). A proposal should be made for series regional workshops with a standard format to the REDD funding agencies. **Action:** Michael Brady to develop a one-page proposal for the funding agencies. **Action:** Martin Herold to explore funding

opportunities at the Brazil event. **Action:** Olga Krankina will write a short outline on the GOFC-GOLD Regional Networks.

- Land cover validation, best available land cover map: Donated optical imagery (e.g., SPOT, ALOS) is required from space agencies and then funding is required for the interpretation of the imagery. This work is directly in support of the GEO land cover task. **Action:** Curtis Woodcock will write up the requirements for the project. **Action:** Martin Herold will help seek support from ESA. The proposal should be from GOFC-GOLD. There are approximately 500 sites across all biomes. There will be some overlap with the 350 FRA sites, however it must be a randomized sample to maintain statistical integrity.
- Plans for LC working group on biomass: The biomass session at the Missoula workshop will be held on 15 June. The proposed participants list has been distributed to the ExComm. The Biomass ECV could be updated by this WG at the session. **Action:** Chris Justice will distribute the overall draft workshop agenda. The invitations and description of the session will be sent out shortly.

## **5. Regional Networks**

- Activities and plans: WARN now has a web page available on the GOFC-GOLD website. SAFNet has updated their website. The NASA LCLUC program is developing a regional workshop in Almaty, Kazakhstan in September. The meeting will incorporate a NERIN meeting and LCLUC science team meeting, with the potential to add NEESPI and MAIRS. The participant's list should be expanded to include more participants from China. 8K will be added to the event schedule support requirements. The budget will be expanded further. In fall 2010 there may be a workshop hosted by India linked to Dr's Pandey and Murthy and the Forest Service of India. Michael Brady met with Zengyuan Li in Beijing to further the development of an East Asia RN. China has designated the Chinese Academy of Forestry to lead the RN. Activities will focus on development of an Asia Pacific forest-monitoring network. A workshop is being planned for late 2009/early 2010; which could involve Kazakhstan and SEARRIN activities. **Action:** Michael Brady will circulate a report on his meeting in Beijing.
- GOFC-GOLD data initiative: Kathleen Landauer reported that the participants have all confirmed that they can attend. Side visits are now being arranged. Anthony Janetos and Hasan Virji will meet to discuss plans for the next START proposal to NASA.

## **6. Any other business**

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 19 February 2009.

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

- January update for event schedule 2008/09

GOFC-GOLD Project Office