

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 19 February 2009

Participants: Tony Janetos, Garik Gutman, Michael Brady, Olga Krankina, Jacqueline Sambale, Martin Herold, Chris Justice, Zubair Qamar, Chris Schmullius, Ivan Csiszar, Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- International GEO Workshop on SAR for Agricultural Monitoring to be held in November
- Fire sessions planned for NERIN workshop, Global Vegetation Workshop, IGARSS meeting, and EARSeL meeting
- Potential for GOFC-GOLD collaboration with Google Earth
- NERIN workshop expanded to include NASA LCLUC and MAIRS meetings

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- 2009 schedule and Membership matters: The ExComm is discussing plans for a 2009 STB meeting, potentially held at ESA near Rome, late October 2009. Alex Held was endorsed by the ExComm to be invited to join the LC IT. **Action:** Project Office will send Alex Held an invitation letter.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- Dr. Gordov of NERIN has agreed to help GTOS with the Russian translation of LCCS. **Action:** GTOS to follow up with Dr. Gordov. The GTOS Steering Committee (SC) meeting is planned for the first half of 2009. **Action:** GTOS SC dates to be specified as soon as possible. **Action:** GTOS is requested to provide relevant GTOS SC documents to participants before the meeting.
- UNFCC/SBSTA: 27 February is the deadline to provide input to the SBSTA report. The ECV coordinators have been requested to finalize input to the ECV standards documents by 8 May, which is prior to the SBSTA in Bonn. The LC IT Project Office has distributed two reports related to Biomass and Land Cover ECV's to gather input. The finalized documents will be provided to GTOS. Zubair Qamar and Antonio Bombelli should be included in Land Cover and Biomass ECV update communications. The IGOL reports have been mailed to the GCOS sponsors and Steering Committee members, GOOS Scientific SC, and past IGOL participants. IGOL reports will be mailed on an ongoing basis. Han Dolman, Reuben Sessa, Alan Belward, and Zubair Qamar have provided input to the GCOS Progress Report. In 2006 GOFC-GOLD prepared an annual progress report on the GCOS implementation activities. However, they have not been requested to report further progress. The IT's have been working on the GCOS objectives, which should be accounted for in the report. **Action:** John Latham will report on the GOFC-GOLD contribution to GCOS in the upcoming meeting this March.
- NERIN has requested LCCS training and travel support from GTOS for participants of the NERIN workshop in September at Almaty, Kazakstan. **Action:** Zubair Qamar to follow up on training and financing possibility by GTOS.
- GEO tasks: The updated 2009/11 GEO work plan is available at: http://www.wmo.ch/pages/prog/gcos/documents/GEO_WP0911_Rev1.pdf. The new GEO task list matrix was reviewed, which includes direct links to the detailed task sheets. GEO has requested that the task sheets be reviewed to ensure that all contributions are listed. The CEOS SIT 23 meeting will be held at Florida, where the new Carbon Tracking task is on the

agenda. The ISRSE Symposium in May will include a forest observation session, which Martin Herold is co-organizing. The Forest Observations for Carbon Tracking workshop will take place on 3 May, ahead of the Symposium (Agenda: <http://www.ieee-earth.org/files/Workshop-Agenda-Stresa-Feb-24-09.pdf>). There was interest in the agricultural land cover land use change component of the Agricultural Monitoring task workshop held in Beijing, where there was a high level of Chinese participation. The Agricultural Monitoring task sheet is being re-drafted, with an emphasis on monitoring agricultural production, and famine early warning. The workshop presentations are posted at <http://www.cropwatch.com.cn/agrworkshop>. **Action:** Chris Justice will circulate the updated task sheet to the ExComm. GOF-C-GOLD will partner with the GEO Agricultural Monitoring Community of Practice to take the lead on the Agricultural Monitoring task component. Discussions are taking place on how the Agricultural Monitoring and Forest Monitoring Communities of Practice can work together to contribute to a User Interface Process through the GEO UIC, which NASA is leading. The International GEO Workshop on Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) to Support Agricultural Monitoring will be held at Banff, 2-4 November (<http://www.cgeo-gcot.gc.ca/announce/sar-ros-eng.pdf>). A training course will be held ahead of the workshop for invited participants. Representatives from India, Japan and Europe will likely participate. **Action:** Chris Schmillius will follow up with the organizing committee on related German Space Agency projects.

3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- Activities and plans: Luigi Boschetti and Danilo Mollicone contributed to the REDD capacity building event in Brazil, and have worked to provide fire content for the Source Book. Efforts will be made to ensure that the fire section represents US and European initiatives/products. CEOS and NOAA are working to support the fire early warning system. There are three items in the CEOS work plan that GOF-C-GOLD can contribute to including: the global geostationary network for early detection, polar satellite data for early detection, and using satellite data to determine fuel moisture conditions. NOAA has a process in place to make the global geostationary network operational. **Action:** Ivan Csiszar will provide Michael Brady with background material for the CEOS SIT meeting. There are several fire sessions planned for upcoming events including: the NERIN workshop at Kazakhstan, the Global Vegetation Workshop at Montana (breakout session), the IGARSS meeting at Cape Town (<http://www.igarss09.org/default.asp>), and the EARSeL SIG Fire at Italy (validation session). GOF-C-GOLD is supporting a training course to transfer the Mexican CONABIO system to INTA in Argentina; Tim Lynham will provide an FDRS session. The 2005 Fire IT book chapter, which has been updated, will be published soon.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and plans: Three workshop reports from the Jena Symposium have been circulated for input. The individual workshop reports may be combined into one GOF-C-GOLD report. Michael Brady will draft the strategy report, which will be available for the GTOS steering committee meeting. The draft Regional Networks workshop report is being finalized. Leading up to the FRA 2010 Remote Sensing survey there will be several capacity building workshops which could include the Regional Networks. The first session will be held in Rome at the end of March. **Action:** The Project Office will send a letter to FAO to express GOF-C-GOLD's support for the FRA 2010, to help formalize the role of GOF-C-GOLD.
- Report on REDD capacity building event at Brazil: The REDD event was organized by the Coalition for Rainforest Nations. Several GOF-C-GOLD members (Carlos Souza, Olivier

Arino, Tom Loveland, Martin Herold, Matt Hansen) participated. The REDD Sourcebook was well received by the countries. The meeting was focused on area change; other meetings will follow including a meeting focused on forest inventory, March 2009 at India. Google Earth is interested in developing an online forest monitoring platform. A white paper and a follow up meeting between GOFC-GOLD and Google are planned.

- Update on Biomass WG: The main activities of the WG are the ECV biomass report, which has been circulated, and preparing for the Missoula workshop. The list of potential WG members has been circulated to the ExComm for input.

5. Regional Networks

- Activities and plans: The planning for the Almaty, Kazakstan workshop is underway. The NERIN workshop has been expanded to include NASA LCLUC and MAIRS meetings. There is a GEO call for proposals related to EO in developing regions. The proposals will be circulated to GEO members for potential support. **Action:** ExComm to review the call for proposals for possible RN opportunities. The Asian Pacific Network may have opportunities for the RN's (<http://www.apn-gcr.org/en/callforproposals/cfp08.htm>).
- GOFC-GOLD data initiative: The Africa pilot project will be held 23 April–10 May in South Dakota, followed by side visits in Washington D.C. The agenda is being developed to accommodate various interests. START is managing the logistical details.

6. Any other business

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

7. List of Documents Circulated

- February update for event schedule 2008/09
- GEO task list matrix
- GEO call for proposals

GOFC-GOLD Project Office