

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 17 April 2009

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

Highlights and Action Items

- GTOS SC meeting tentatively planned for November
- GOFC-GOLD team fully engaged in upcoming ISRSE Symposium and GEO workshop
- Fire IT contributing to a product validation campaign
- LC IT planning REDD side event at the June 09 SBSTA
- NERIN Almaty workshop expanded to include training
- Plans finalized for Africa Regional Network data initiative at EROS data Centre

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- 2009 schedule: Scientific and technical Board meeting will be hosted by Olivier Arino at ESA, Frascati in October. Dates to be finalized by May telcon. **Action:** Project Office to survey ExComm for dates. Tony Janetos reviewed recent Google forest meeting, which was attended by many international EO specialists. **Action:** Project Office to request meeting summary from Carlos Souza.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: The GTOS steering committee meeting will be hosted by UNESCO either in July or November. Zubair Qamar will request input from SC members to target the final date. The Russian translation of LCCS is complete. The IGOL reports are continuing to be distributed. The ECV standard documents are due by 8 May. Martin Herold submitted comments on the Biomass ECV to Antonio Bombelli. A GTOS side event for the three observing systems, with a focus on ECV's, is planned for the SBSTA in June. GOFC-GOLD has also submitted an application to hold a side event on REDD at the SBSTA. The Leicester fire emissions training workshop is being coordinated by the CarboAfrica coordinator of fire, Kevin Tansey, and inquires about the agenda should be directed to him. The GOFC-GOLD Regional Networks (Fire) ideally should be involved in the workshop. **Action:** Zubair Qamar to link the appropriate RN Fire participants to the training session via Olga Krankina.
- The GOFC-GOLD presence on the GTOS website was discussed. **Action:** Zubair Qamar to follow up with John Latham to look into the following updates: GOFC-GOLD is written on the GTOS home page in place of "Land Dynamics", the GTOS regional network section references the GOFC-GOLD regional networks, and that the site map provides a breakdown of the GOFC-GOLD site, which link to the pages.
- GEO tasks: Ken Korporal (CGEO) will use GOFC-GOLD Project Office support for a agricultural monitoring task activity (Workshop on use of SAR for Ag. Monitoring, Nov 09).
- Curtis Woodcock reported on the recent Forest Carbon Tracking task planning meeting at Canberra. The main goal of the task is to convince the carbon trading community that remote sensing is ready to provide the necessary inputs. They would like to promote annual reporting, which may not be practical. Radar was focused on as the solution to forest monitoring, with optical data used for historical information only. To date there have been no

major studies done to validate the use of Radar for monitoring tropical deforestation. Currently the Australian system uses Landsat, with no Radar data. There is high quality global radar data available from Palsar with an acquisition strategy that could support this initiative. The tropical forest monitoring/deforestation community was not well represented at these discussions. There is a risk that the results of the REDD working group workshops, which involved those responsible for conducting country reporting, could be lost. The task leads would like GOF-C-GOLD to help. Martin Herold is likely the best person to track this effort. **Action:** Curtis Woodcock to follow up with Martin Herold. **Action:** The LC IT to write a letter to outline the GOF-C-GOLD concerns to Stephen Ward, tied to a commitment to contribute. Part of this initiative is driven by the upcoming COP. The carbon task workshop during the ISRSE at Stress will focus on the task and include broad representation. Michael Brady is on the organizing committee for the 2nd GEO Forest Monitoring Symposium, and will help ensure that GOF-C-GOLD is well represented.

3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- Activities and plans: Chris Justice plans to step back from the Fire IT co-chair role. **Action:** Secretariat to determine the process for selecting a replacement to co-lead the IT with Johann Goldammer. The plans for the validation session at the EARSeL SIG Fire workshop are ongoing. There will be IT presentations at the Global Vegetation Workshop in June. The IT is working with the Central Africa RN on Fire on various activities. There is a small international campaign being organized in Australia, for validation looking at several products. Fire issues will be a part of the NERIN/LCLUC/MAIRS workshop at Almaty. Ivan Csiszar is leading the Fire IT ECV work. There will be a presentation at the Meteosat Second Generation Workshop at Sofia on the Fire ECV work. Luigi Boschetti and Kevin Tansey are leading the Fire component of the REDD Sourcebook. The IT is moving ahead on the Global Fire Assessment. A proposal will be submitted to NASA to support the U.S.A. contribution of the assessment. Chris Justice and Olivier Arino will discuss how to integrate international satellite assets into the assessment.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and plans: The REDD Sourcebook updates are progressing. Missing parts including sections on: degradation, national forest inventory, and biodiversity will be added. The draft updated Sourcebook will be ready for the SBSTA in June. Chris Schmillius will participate at the Stresa meeting on May 3, and 6-7. **Action:** Michael Brady to confirm Chris Schmillius' presentation at the Workshop.

5. Regional Networks

- Activities and plans: The Almaty workshop planning is progressing. Additional support is being provided for the workshop by NASA (Patrick Coronado) for a related training session. UNESCO training interests may also be incorporated in the workshop. Redlatif had a recent workshop on the SERENA project hosted by INPE (Alberto Setzer), at Brazil. The GOF-C-GOLD outreach materials may be translated into various languages for the Regional Networks as requested.
- Update on RN data initiative: The training at the EROS data centre will begin on 23 April. Tom Loveland has been the main workshop organizer. Olga Krankina and Erin Naydenov will participate during the second week. Participants have been requested to develop plans for follow up activities which could include: workshops, training sessions, hardware, and

software. The participants will have side visits to the University of Maryland, START, and Michigan State University following their stay at Sioux Falls.

6. Any other business

- SAR coordination initiative: The Canadian Space Agency presented the need for SAR data coordination and acquisition planning at the 2008 Jena Symposium. Michael Brady has met with the CSA to further develop this initiative and a work plan. This is linked to the Forest Carbon Tracking task where optical-SAR data use and integration is being promoted.
- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 21 May 2009.

7. List of Documents Circulated

- April update for event schedule 2009/10

GOFC-GOLD Project Office