

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 28 May 2009

Participants: Michael Brady, Olga Krankina, Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, Johann Goldammer, Curtis Woodcock, Martin Herold, Kathleen Landauer, Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- GOFC-GOLD STB meeting scheduled for 12 October, 2009.
- Fire IT contributing to a UN white paper on global change and fire.
- LC IT to conduct a validation workshop at the Almaty meeting.
- OSFAC regional land cover forest monitoring workshop planned for November 2009.
- START accepting proposals to support data Initiative follow on activities for Africa RN's.

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- 2009 schedule: Any events to be added to the schedule should be sent to the Project Office. The Scientific and Technical Board meeting is planned for 12 October, 2009 at ESA, Rome. The duration of the STB and any potential side meetings should be planned. The STB should focus on strategic planning with a target of how to manage various emerging activities, rather than showcasing work to external participants. The GOFC-GOLD STB results could feed into the GTOS SC meeting, which is tentatively planned for November. The FAO forestry group, GTOS, TOPC, GCOS, Regional Network members, and other key people should be engaged in the STB. Potential side events could include a Fire IT planning meeting, LCCS session, and a session to finalize updates to the REDD sourcebook. **Action:** The Project Office will distribute a list of past STB participants. **Action:** ExComm members to send suggestions for side events and potential invitees to the Project Office. **Action:** Tony Janetos to develop an initial set of objectives and agenda for the STB.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GEO tasks: The G8 S&T committee will meet in June, where GEO, CEOS and the Forest Carbon task are on the agenda. The planning for 2nd GEO Forest Symposium in July at Thailand is being led by the GEO Secretariat. GOFC-GOLD will need to put effort into connecting with GEO task leads, to ensure that they are aware of the work that GOFC-GOLD is contributing. Planning for the GEO workshop on the use of SAR for Agricultural monitoring, which will be held at Kananaskis, Canada is underway.
- Report on ISRSE symposium, Carbon task workshop & GEO UIC meeting: ESA presented two papers, GlobCover and GlobCorine, and a poster on GlobCover validation at the ISRSE meeting. Michael Brady, Chris Schmullius, Alex Held, and Frederic Achard participated in the Carbon task workshop. The Canadian Space Agency participated in the workshop, and SAR coordination/data acquisition planning efforts are underway. The Carbon task involves national demonstrators, nine countries are currently listed. Michael Brady is contributing to the task and working with Mexico's REDD readiness group. The task is focused on coordinating observations, and is centered on SAR. A global monitoring and observation scheme should be the focus, and optical should be included. The focus on the use of Radar for operational monitoring of forest change in support of carbon trading is premature. The goal to get Radar data collected in a coordinated way is a good first step. The USGS should be more directly involved in this task, and provide optical data. The task has produced a data requirements document. Efforts on coordinating acquisition strategies should be focused on a

land surface imaging constellation, rather than on any one specific sensor type. The acquisition coordination for the National demonstration areas should be done with all international assets which include optical.

- Europe is beginning to be active in the global land cover domain. Two examples are: the ESA climate change initiative, which funds activities on observing ECV's; and the European GMES program, which will have a workshop on global monitoring issues, including a land cover session. Concerns were expressed regarding ECV's in terms of quality control. Quality control should be built into monitoring activities from the initial planning and budgeting stage. The Fire IT is working on protocols and standards for accuracy assessment to help ensure that the ECV products are validated. CEOS also has an important role, as the international protocols are established through the CEOS LPV. The Global Vegetation Workshop will be an opportunity for GOF-C-GOLD to advance protocols on accuracy assessment, validation, and reporting. The GCOS 2004-08 progress report could help highlight validation as a critical point. The progress reporting is the responsibility of TOPC.
- GTOS update and requests for GOF-C inputs: Jeff Tschirley has transferred to another group within FAO, and Zubair Qamar has moved from the GTOS Secretariat. GOF-C_GOLD inputs to the GCOS progress report are being collected by the Project Office for submission to GCOS. The goals of the GCOS tasks need to be updated, and land cover change should be included.

3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- Activities and plans: Isabelle Cruz of Conabio (Mexico) is now the coordinator for Redlatif. Conabio will hold a workshop for the 10 year anniversary of their fire management system in June, in which Redlatif is involved. An OSFAC regional land cover forest monitoring workshop is being planned for November; however the dates may be shifted to avoid the GEO plenary. Olivier Arino and two colleagues will present three papers on Fire at the Earsel meeting at Matera, 2 to 5 September 2009. Bill DeGroot and Johann Goldammer are writing a chapter on the need for an EWS on fire for a UN white paper on global change and fire. The paper will be a comprehensive analysis of vegetation fires and climate change, which will be ready mid-June for the UNOOSA special event. A special IPCC report will be written on extreme events and disasters, which will be finalized after COP-15, likely in 2011.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and plans: The Montana biomass meeting plans are progressing. Comments on the agenda should be sent to Martin Herold. There is a CEOS cal/val meeting that will overlap with the biomass meeting. Martin Herold will participate in the INSPIRE-GMES Workshop for Land Cover, 29 June. The LC IT should contribute ideas on the generic global legend. ESA will have a progress meeting for GlobCorine (with UCL and EEA) at Frascati, 29 June. ESA is preparing their presence at the UNFCCC COP-15 in Copenhagen. Curtis Woodcock plans to conduct the first workshop on the validation exercise, interpreting some of the sites in the region, at the Almaty meeting. There will be a side event at the SBSTA at Bonn on REDD, related to the Princes Rainforest Foundation. The next version of the Sourcebook will be available late June. The Sourcebook should be ready and printed for the COP-15. The Project Office will help with editing the Sourcebook.

5. Regional Networks

- Activities and plans: Plans for the Almaty meeting are on track. Participants of the workshop will receive a certificate of completion. Any resource requirements to support the Regional

Networks should be sent to the Project Office to budget appropriately. Michael Brady participated at the UFRO conference on Forest Inventory and Monitoring, where he provided a key note address on GOFC-GOLD.

- Report on RN data initiative and side visits: The Africa pilot was successful. There were six representatives from the Africa Regional Networks, and a representative of NERIN. The program length and site visits' were appropriate. The content and the amount of training that was provided could be improved to be more hands on. Currently participants are looking at follow up activities. Proposals will be submitted to START on for data distribution in the regions, and training sessions. The Project Office will send a thank you letter to the USGS for hosting the session. Olga Krankina plans to follow up with the participants to get feedback and how to improve future sessions. There were a few limitations to data access, as large batches could not be downloaded. There was interest in having an extended presentation and training session on REDD. A mini regional network meeting could be held as a part of these sessions, to separate organizational issues and science. Olga Krankina and Erin Naydenov will draft a report on the training session. The sessions at the UMd, SDSU, START, and MSU went well.

6. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 25 June 2009.

7. List of Documents Circulated

- May update for event schedule 2009/10

GOFC-GOLD Project Office