

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 25 June 2009

Participants: Michael Brady, Olga Krankina, Chris Justice, Martin Herold, Chris Schmillius, Tony Janetos, Frank Martin Seifert (representing Olivier Arino), Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- GOFC-GOLD provides input to GCOS 2004-2008 progress report
- Potential Fire IT meeting discussed for spring 2010
- Biomass WG inaugurated at the Global Vegetation workshop
- OSFAC to work with FAO on capacity building workshop

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- 2009 schedule: The GOFC-GOLD strategy should be reviewed at the STB meeting. The ExComm and sponsors should be involved in making any changes to the strategy. Rooms have been booked from 12-14 October at ESRIN. The report on the 2008 Jena strategy session has been drafted.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GEO tasks: The forest carbon tracking task is focused in 2009 on optical and SAR EO data acquisition planning for 7 national demonstrator countries. Related to SAR contribution to the task, the 5 principle SAR space agencies met on 22 June at ESRIN to discuss the FCT task, data coordination, national demonstration sites, and verification sites. The initial seven national demonstration sites are located in Mexico, Brazil, Guyana, Cameroon, Tanzania, Borneo Island and Tasmania Island. Congo was suggested for as a national demonstrator site through its link as a Regional Network. Related to the Optical contribution to the task, the individual agencies of the CEOS land surface imaging sub group are discussing acquisition, but have not confirmed schedules. The 2nd GEO Forest Symposium at Thailand, 2-5 July, will focus on Asia Pacific countries to introduce the GEO forest activities and the FCT task. The national demonstrator countries have been invited. There is a request for input to the annual GEO work plan (annual technical revision and review). Comments from the task leads are due 8 July.
- GCOS Progress Report 2004-08: The GOFC-GOLD comments on the progress report were compiled and have been submitted. Copies of the comments were also sent to John Latham (GTOS), and Han Dolman (TOPC). Other GTOS panels were also not requested to submit comments on the progress report. The progress report was presented at SBSTA, along with the ECV reports. To ensure full participation in GCOS IP matters, a GOFC-GOLD representative should participate on TOPC. There was a recommendation from the Global Vegetation workshop that there be oversight of ECV implementation. The land product validation protocols' need to be an integral part of ECV implementation. ESA plans to address a list of ECV's through a call for proposals. ESA has set up an advisory group to develop criteria for the selection of initial 11 ECV's; the work will be expanded to include other ECV's at a later date. There should be international participation in determining the requirements, and the validation of the ECV's. Efforts to coordinate with the climate data records that are coming out of other nations should be made, allowing for redundancy with out duplication.

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: The GTOS SC meeting is planned for November. GTOS is waiting for UNESCO to confirm that date. The June SBSTA has accepted the GTOS recommendations on the establishment of a standards development mechanism for terrestrial ECV's, and a report on the status of the terrestrial ECV's. It is unclear what will happen next with the standards documents before the next COP. **Action:** John Latham/Reuben Sessa to provide an update and next steps for the standards documents. **Action:** John Latham to confirm if LCCS training will be arranged for the Almaty workshop in September.

3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- Activities and plans: There was a discussion on fire product validation at the Global Vegetation workshop. Where there is consensus, the IT can move forward on the validation protocols that are emerging from the CEOS land product validation working group. A global fire assessment proposal has been submitted to NASA. A Fire EWS proposal has been submitted to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). The EARSeL SIG meeting will include a special session fire on validation, at Matera in September. There is a coordination meeting for the operational fire agencies in the U.S.A. in July. A Fire IT meeting should be planned for spring 2010, hopefully hosted by ESA at ESRIN, so that ESA's fire related ECV activities, FAO and other European colleagues are involved. **Action:** Frank Martin Seifert will determine availability of meeting space at ESRIN.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and plans: The Jena reports will be available on the LC IT website and the NRCan FTP site. The GOFC-GOLD report series web page will be updated shortly. The CEOS land product validation meeting was held in June. Mark Friedl and Martin Herold are leading the land cover validation part of the CEOS cal/val group. A meeting will be held in July at Boston, to discuss the sampling design for next global validation exercise. There will be a GMES Inspire land cover harmonization workshop in June. A Globe Corine/European Environmental Agency meeting will be held for a project aimed increased updating for land dynamic monitoring.
- Report on UNFCCC SBSTA 30: The Source book side event was well attended. The new Source book version will be available shortly, and will be edited through the Project Office.
- Report on Biomass WG meeting: The working group was inaugurated at the Global Vegetation workshop. The biomass session was well attended. Various methodologies were presented and discussed. Working group activities will include further development of the biomass ECV document, and may include putting together products, and validation. The workshop presentations will be posted on the LC IT website. A workshop report will be drafted. There may be a follow up meeting in parallel to the IGOS symposium, AGU, or GOFC-GOLD STB. Quarterly Biomass WG teleconferences could be supported by the Project Office.

5. Regional Networks

- Activities and plans: There will be an FAO training event in September with an OSFAC follow up activity in November. The FAO will work with OSFAC, to engage the regional network participants. In January there will be a Carbon REDD workshop, possibly in Kinshasa. GOFC-GOLD will help sponsor the November event, and support OSFAC participation at the Carbon REDD workshop. The plans for the Almaty workshop, 15-20 September, are progressing.

- Update on Data Initiative follow up: Input from the participants of the Africa pilot was collected, and will be compiled into a report. The follow up proposals are with START. John Townshend is organizing an East Asia RN meeting in October. SEARRIN members have been invited to the GEO Forest Symposium. **Action:** Michael Brady to help ensure that East Asia RN members participate in the GEO Symposium. The plans for the East Asia RN should be presented at the Almaty workshop as there will be many representatives from China. **Action:** Michael Brady to write a brief outline of the East Asia activities, and circulate to the ExComm. **Action:** Project Office to formally invite the East Asia RN lead to the Almaty workshop.
 - START Update: Efforts should be made to work with START to bring in funding resources from other START mechanisms (NSF). GOFC-GOLD could be used as a mechanism to implement START objectives. START should be invited to the GOFC-GOLD STB meeting.
- 6. Any other business**
- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 16 July 2009.
- 7. List of Documents Circulated**
- June update for event schedule 2009/10

GOFC-GOLD Project Office