

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 16 July 2009

Participants: Chris Justice, Martin Herold, Tony Janetos, Curtis Woodcock, Kathleen Landauer, Johann Goldammer, Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- FCT task is considering regional data processing centres to support demonstration projects
- LC IT to contribute to a FRA 2010 forest degradation study
- Potential RN participation in SAR for Agricultural Monitoring workshop

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- 2009 schedule: **Action:** ExComm members to suggest discussion topics and participants for the STB meeting. **Action:** meeting and travel support requests should be submitted, so that START and the Project Office can budget appropriately.
- Website: The Project Office plans to update the GOFC-GOLD web pages. GTOS has identified a new IT contact at FAO to help manage the GOFC-GOLD web site.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GEO tasks: The FCT task is very active politically and with regard to data acquisition. Data acquisition planning related to the national demonstrator countries has begun. A meeting is planned to discuss issues related to common processing schemes for SAR and optical data. Data policy is an issue, as not all space agencies are providing free and open access to data. GEO does not currently have an acquisition strategy; the GEO related acquisition plans are based on the national demonstrators. There are no GOFC-GOLD Regional Network sites included as national demonstrators. Currently data policy is a limitation of GEO. If access to data is not unrestricted, then it should not be a part of GEO. GOFC-GOLD will send a letter to the GEO Chair, which outlines why restricted access is a challenge for research and government users in developing countries. **Action:** Martin Herold will draft the letter for GEO. The FCT task is looking into establish regional processing centres; the centers would provide the processing of the data sets for the demonstration projects. GOFC-GOLD should provide leadership towards forming a US consortium of forest monitoring experts, which could be expanded to include the Americas by adding participants from outside the US. **Action:** Michael Brady to send a summary note about the FCT task related to data processing and national demonstrations (number of scenes involved) to the ExComm. Google is involved in the FCT task. The link between the processing related to the demonstration activities and Google activities should be determined. Google is interested in creating the capability to process large amounts of remotely sensed data, which would follow the community's specifications. GOFC-GOLD should provide the FCT task leads with a list of potential contributions to the task, which could include: data policy, integration of optical and radar data, regional processing centres, and working with national demonstrators. **Action:** Martin Herold to develop a list of GOFC-GOLD contributions to the FCT task.
- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: The 2 day GTOS Steering Committee meeting is being planned for November at Paris.

3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- Activities and plans: The Global Fire Assessment activity is generating interest. A Fire IT meeting will likely be held in spring 2010, where the IT co-lead responsibility will transition.

Fire sessions are planned for the Almaty workshop, Earsel SIG meeting, and the Sofia EUMETSAT meeting. The Fire EWS task sheet is being updated. The white paper on the global analysis of fire is progressing. Johann Goldammer will attend the August UNFCCC consultations at Bonn.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and plans: The report from the Biomass meeting at Missoula has been drafted, and will be available shortly. The updated REDD Sourcebook is available at: <http://www.gofc-gold.uni-jena.de/redd/>. The report by the land cover project office and Friedrich Schiller University Jena on an assessment of national forest monitoring capabilities in tropical non-Annex I countries and recommendations for capacity building is available at: http://princes.3cdn.net/8453c17981d0ae3cc8_q0m6vsqxd.pdf. The report was prepared for the Prince's Rainforests Project and The Government of Norway. There is a meeting on UN REDD at New York, where Ruth DeFries and Danilo Mollicone are participating.
- Plans for Boston global validation planning meeting: There will be a working meeting to discuss the sample design of the global land cover validation activity. Martin Herold, Curtis Woodcock and Steve Stahmen will participate. The first regional workshop will be held at the Almaty workshop, where the interpretation will be done for several sites. John Townshend may send a representative.
- FRA 2010: The LC IT has been asked to contribute to a special study on the assessment and monitoring of forest degradation as a part of the FRA 2010. There will be a related meeting 8-10 September. Matt Hansen and Chris Schmillius are involved in the FRA remote sensing survey. GOF-C-GOLD (OSFAC) is involved in regional training workshops. Validation is another area where GOF-C-GOLD could contribute to the FRA. The global validation activity could be linked to the FRA, where the FRA samples could be used to validate global datasets and the global validation exercise could help validate the FRA 2010.

5. Regional Networks

- Activities and plans: Regional Network participation will be sought for the upcoming SAR for Agricultural Monitoring meeting in November, which includes a pre-workshop training session. **Action:** Erin Naydenov to contact the leads of the Land Cover Regional Networks to seek participation in the workshop. Revised data initiative follow up proposals are being evaluated.
- START Update: Kathleen Landauer will include ExComm members on the distribution list for announcements for START proposals. Hassan Virji may participate in the GOF-C-GOLD STB meeting. The next START proposal should include input from the IT's on that the new initiatives are captured.

6. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 17 September 2009.

7. List of Documents Circulated

- July update for event schedule 2009/10

GOF-C-GOLD Project Office