

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 23 September 2009

Participants: Michael Brady, Chris Justice, Martin Herold, Chris Schmultius, Tony Janetos, Johann Goldammer, Curtis Woodcock, Olivier Arino, Antonio Bombelli, Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- GOFC-GOLD ExComm meeting scheduled for 20 November 2009
- New GTOS biennial report is being prepared
- Fire IT meeting tentatively planned for 23-25 March 2010
- Updated REDD Sourcebook to be distributed at COP 15
- Central Asia Regional Information Network formed

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- 2009 schedule: The GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee meeting has been postponed, and now scheduled for 20 November, during the GEO Plenary at Washington, DC. The GOFC-GOLD ExComm telcon is being switched to the third Wednesday of each month until January 2010. **Action:** ExComm to send event dates and requests for support to the Project Office for budget planning. The status of GOFC-GOLD sponsorship renewal was reviewed. Letters to request another three years of support have been sent to CSA and ESA. A proposal will be prepared to request continued NASA support through START. NASA is considering providing support for a Fire IT Secretariat through UMd. Additional sources for sponsorship should also be considered (USGS, NOAA, and European Commission).

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GEO tasks: The Annual GEO Plenary is on 17-19 November at Washington, DC. The Plenary includes an IGOS-P Symposium, where the IGOL theme may be presented by John Townshend. **Action:** Michael Brady will distribute the agenda for the week to the ExComm. GTOS will be represented at the Plenary by John Latham and Ricardo Valentini. There are two meetings related to the Forest Carbon Tracking task in October, one is with the Prince's Rainforest Foundation and the other is with Google. The role of GOFC-GOLD in the task is mainly on data acquisition. The task involves seven national demonstrator countries (verification sites). The task has been focused on coordinated data acquisition; however the plan to provide the data for processing is still being determined. ESA will have a contract to get the best methodology that makes use of AMC, X- band, radar and optical data. The FRA-SAR has 300 sites in the tropical belt looking at TerraSAR-X data, 5 of the sites (Mexico, Indonesia, Burkina Faso, Congo and Angola) will explore X-, C-, and L- band. The Architecture and data committee of the Global Land Cover task had a meeting recently at Australia, where Martin Herold provided a presentation. The Forest Monitoring task, focused on FRA 2010, will include a number of regional capacity building workshops. The FRA group is interested in working with GOFC-GOLD regional networks. The relationship between GOFC-GOLD and the FRA should be formalized. There will be a workshop on the Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture at Ahmedabad, 17-18 December 2009 (<http://www.commission8.isprs.org/wg6/>). **Action:** At the Executive Committee meeting in November, discussions to continue on a potential GOFC-GOLD Working Group on Land Use/Agricultural, as well as the biomass working group.

- GCOS IP Progress Report: The final version of the GCOS IP report has been distributed. The comments submitted by GOF-C-GOLD have been incorporated.
- GTOS update and requests for GOF-C inputs: The GTOS SC meeting is scheduled for 30 November to 2 December 2009 at Paris (UNESCO). The role of GTOS with respect to GCOS needs clarification, which should be discussed at the GTOS Steering Committee meeting. Specifically there is confusion about the GCOS IP tasks and there needs to be more clear guidance on ECV implementation. There is a need for ECV coordination, which may be a role that GOF-C-GOLD could fill. An updated GTOS strategic document will be developed; GOF-C-GOLD input will be requested. There will be an ECV side event at the UNFCCC COP 15, where GTOS may have space. The three global observing systems (GCOS, GOOS, GTOS) have submitted an application for a side event, which would focus on the needs for systematic Earth observations, where GOF-C-GOLD could contribute. The ECV document is being printed and distributed at COP 15 at a FAO or UN booth or side event. The new GTOS biennial report is being prepared. Ricardo Valentini is the new GTOS Chair.

3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- Activities and plans: The SADC regional fire management meeting, which is linked to the Early Warning System task, has been postponed. The Fire IT meeting is tentatively planned for the 23 – 25 March 2010 at ESRIN, Frascati. The EARSeL SIG Fire workshop at Matera, where product validation and ECV development were discussed, was successful. The GFMC is planning for 2010 activities in conjunction with the regional fire network in central Asia, where there is a need for coordination and capacity building.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and plans: The IT had a land cover validation meeting in July, to determine a sample design as well as a response design, which was tested at the Almaty workshop. ESA is beginning a climate change initiative, where land cover and fire are on the priority list. ESA has hired an employee to work on fire for the REDD initiative, and should link to the REDD working group. ESA is starting to process a new GlobCover version for 2009, with the goal of making it available in the first quarter of 2010. Changes will be addressed in the climate change initiative within the ECV. The next Land Cover IT meeting is being discussed for November 2010.
- The Land Cover Project Office may shift locations; however it will remain at a University in Europe. ESA will conduct a competitive process for supporting the Project Office.
- Report on REDD working group: The working group is updating the REDD Sourcebook. The Fire IT will be requested to update their section if appropriate. The updates to the Sourcebook will be completed before COP 15. The Project Office will produce Sourcebook CD's for distribution at the COP, through an ESA booth or side event and the CIFOR forest day event. The next REDD working group meeting is being discussed.
- Report on Biomass working group: A biomass working group document has been prepared which includes information from the Missoula Biomass WG meeting. The initiation of the Biomass WG will be highlighted in the next GOF-C-GOLD land cover newsletter. There is the potential to move towards a Biomass Implementation Team, with a Project Office at Jena in the next few years.

5. Regional Networks

- Activities and plans: The East Asia Regional Network is planning a workshop in late October on establishing an Asia Pacific forest monitoring network at Beijing. China is the focal point for the network, and is linked to APEC. The results of the October meeting will be reported at the APEC Ministers meeting at Singapore, in November. John Townshend has taken the lead on developing the East Asia network. John Townshend and Michael Brady will attend the October meeting. The OSFAC and Carbon REDD workshops will likely be combined and held in January 2010.
- Report on Almaty workshop: Olga Krankina is drafting a full meeting report. It was agreed to form a Regional Network for Central Asia (CARIN) in the GOFC-GOLD framework, there will be a follow up meeting in January. The next workshop will be held next fall at Uzbekistan. The Almaty workshop included a fire component, and there is now a partnership with the International Wildland Fire Network.
- Update on Data Initiative follow up: Support for the follow up proposals from the participants of the Africa Pilot, is being arranged. There is a logistical problem with one of the proposals, as START has restrictions on where funds can be transferred to. The end date for the completion of the projects may need to be extended past January 2010. Another data initiative session is being planned for Asia, during the spring of 2010. Planning for the session is on track with support from USGS, and additional NASA support through START. The report on the Africa Pilot is being finalized and will be posted on the GOFC-GOLD website.

6. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 28 October 2009.

7. List of Documents Circulated

- September update for event schedule 2009/10
- Thank you letter to USGS for data initiative support

GOFC-GOLD Project Office