

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 29 October 2009

Participants: Michael Brady, Chris Justice, Tony Janetos, Johann Goldammer, Garik Gutman, Olivier Arino, Olga Krankina, Ivan Csiszar, Kathleen Landauer, Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- Executive Committee will host strategy meeting at Washington in November
- GEO FCT task requests GOFC-GOLD to form a related Working Group
- GTOS to have booth at GEO Plenary
- Fire IT to hold meeting on operational fire risk products
- Biomass Working Group Meeting tentatively planned for June 2010
- ESA to hold Global Biomass Mapping session at Living Planet Symposium

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- ExComm meeting plans: Comments on the draft GOFC-GOLD Strategy meeting agenda should be sent to the Project Office. The meeting will be held in Washington D.C. at the American Geophysical Union Building on 20 November.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GEO tasks: At the GEO Plenary there will be opportunities to make interventions through national delegations or GTOS. GTOS will have a visible presence at the plenary; GOFC-GOLD has provided GTOS with outreach materials for the GTOS booth. GTOS has not consulted the panels on what their comments on GEO will/should be. Tony Janetos will request that GTOS provide details on the key points they will make at the plenary. The GEO Forest Carbon Tracking task team met at London in October. The two venues were Princes Rainforest Project at St. James' Palace, and Google. The meetings highlighted methodology, calibration and validation as key issues. The task requested that GOFC-GOLD form a GEO Forest Carbon Tracking task working group. ESA is involved in the Forest Carbon task, and would like to see GOFC-GOLD take more responsibility for defining the methodology for the task. The task has made progress on planning and data acquisition. The task website is at: <http://portal.geo-fct.org/>. The task is on the main agenda for the GEO Plenary.
- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: GTOS is drafting a Biennial Report, which GOFC-GOLD contributed. GTOS announced a CarboAfrica meeting, which follows the OSFAC meeting in the same region two months earlier. There should be better coordination of activities between GTOS activities and the panel activities. The GTOS steering committee meeting will take place in early December at UNESCO in Paris. The meeting should highlight the level of support that GTOS has from their sponsors, which will determine what GTOS is able to do.

3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- Activities and plans: Luigi Boschetti is leading an effort to update the fire information in the REDD Sourcebook. Conabio will hold a workshop to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Mexico's operational fire monitoring systems in November. There will also be a half day RedLaTIF session focused on the Serena project. INPE will also celebrate the 15th anniversary of Brazil's operational fire monitoring system in November. The Fire IT workshop is being planned for 23-25 March 2010 at ESA Frascati. The Fire IT will hold a technical meeting on operational fire risk products, 5 December at Madrid. ALP FFIRS is a new network is focused

on creating an alpine fire early warning system for Europe, which GOFC-GOLD should collaborate with. The JRC is now also being included as a co-lead of the GEO task on Fire Early Warning. GOFC-GOLD needs to discuss the role of task leads with the GEO Secretariat during the GEO Plenary. NASA may support a Fire IT Project Office; Chris Justice will submit a proposal. ESA will have a European call for proposals for work on the Fire and Land Cover ECV's; proposals must be submitted by 29 January 2010.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and plans: ESA confirmed a session on Global Biomass Mapping will be held as a part of their Living Planet symposium in June 2010 at Bergen, Norway.
- Biomass Working Group update: All for the invitees for the IGARSS Invited Session: Synergy of EO Products to Map the Essential Climate Variable Biomass, July 2010, agreed to contribute. The next Biomass Working Group meeting will likely follow the session.

5. Regional Networks

- Report on Almaty workshop: Tatiana Loboda wrote an article for The Earth Observer, which should be available shortly. Plans for the next workshop in Uzbekistan are under way.
- START update: The next proposal from START to NASA is being developed. The current grant expires in June 2010. Ideas for the proposal can be submitted to Kathleen Landauer.

6. Any other business

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

7. List of Documents Circulated

- October update for event schedule 2009/10

GOFC-GOLD Project Office