

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 17 December 2009

Participants: Michael Brady, Chris Justice, Johann Goldammer, Curtis Woodcock, Garik Gutman, Olivier Arino, Olga Krankina, Ivan Csiszar, Chris Schmullius, Martin Herold, Ivan Csiszar

Highlights and Action Items

- Executive Committee holds GOFC-GOLD strategy meeting at Washington
- GTOS booth receives high visibility at GEO VI Plenary and includes new outreach materials
- GOFC-GOLD co-leads GEO forest carbon tracking task
- GTOS Steering Meeting presents new 5-year strategy
- New version of GOFC-GOLD Sourcebook presented at Copenhagen CoP 15

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- Michael Brady circulated the draft report of the GOFC-GOLD Strategy meeting, which was held on 20 November at Washington. A big thank you to the START Office for providing the meeting venue. **Action:** Participants were asked to comment on the accuracy and completeness of the meeting record in the report.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GEO tasks: The outcomes of the recent GEO Plenary were reviewed by Michael Brady, including the meeting between Tony Janetos and the GEO Director, Jose Achache. Tony Janetos also made a presentation on Understanding Ecosystems and Their Services at the Symposium on the Data Sharing Plans for GEOSS and on the Benefits of Data Sharing for Science, which was held at the Wilson Center. The GTOS Secretariat sponsored a booth, which included the several GOFC-GOLD outreach items. There were no notable GTOS interventions at plenary. The GEO Forest Carbon Tracking task was highlighted at the plenary, including the new task portal and website (<http://portal.geo-fct.org/>).
- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: The GTOS steering committee meeting took place from 2-4 December at UNESCO in Paris, with Michael Brady representing Tony Janetos. A GOFC-GOLD update and strategic directions were presented as input to the discussions on the draft GTOS Strategy for 2010-2015. The new GTOS Chair, Ricardo Valentini, actively sought inputs from all panels, sponsors and steering committee members, with a view to revising the strategy document in January 2010. A key issue highlighted was the need for increased resources and support for the GTOS Secretariat from the sponsoring organizations. GOFC-GOLD is being asked to increase its focus on biodiversity EO issues, mainly to support the CBD. **Action:** invite new Chair to participate in next telcon to articulate this focus. Concerns were raised regarding ECV operational governance. This is to be addressed through two **Actions:** Invite the TOPC Chair, Han Dolman, to join the next ExComm teleconference for discussions; and comment on the relevant ECVs in the 2010 Update of the GCOS Implementation Plan (<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos/index.php>) (comments are due 31 January 2010).

3. Fire IT Update and Issues for Discussion

- The Fire IT held a technical meeting on operational fire risk products, 5 December at Madrid. A report has been prepared. **Action:** Post on GOFC-GOLD website.

- The Fire IT workshop is being planned for 23-25 March 2010 at ESA Frascati. Guidance on further development of the fire ECV is need prior to the meeting. **Action:** Discuss with Han Dolman at next telcon. Chris Justice presented a list of new IT members to be in place prior to the meeting. **Action:** Project Office to send invitations to new members and thank you letters to retiring IT members.
- Ivan Csiszar reported on the successful operation of the NOAA NESDIS global geostationary fire product (web link needed), which was established partly in response to a GOF-C-GOOD request. Chris Justice discussed the opportunity for GOF-C-GOLD to advocate for improved coordination and phasing between upcoming LDCM and Sentinel II launches. **Action:** Project Office to draft letter for Chair to ESA and NASA/USGS advocating for such coordination on several aspects of two systems. Olivier Arino informed the meeting that 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: Martin Herold reported on GOF-C-GOLD activities at the UNFCCC CoP 15 at Copenhagen, which included among others: Sourcebook CD distribution, ESA booth with posters and brochures; and Side event with CIFOR. Planning is underway for a Sourcebook working group meeting in first half of 2010. GCOS IP comments on land cover and biomass ECV actions to be prepared by 31 January. Curtis Woodcock reviewed recent progress of the GEO Forest Carbon Tracking task and commented that the role of GOF-C-GOLD in the task is now established. Future task activities involving product development and analysis will require increased resources and support, which need to be discussed with the task co-leads. **Action:** Michael Brady to discuss support needs with national co-leads. Martin Herold will start his new position in the Netherlands in January, where he hopes to successfully tender for continued operations of the Land Cover Project Office.
- Biomass Working Group update: Christiane Schmuilius is planning a group meeting for the invitees for the IGARSS Invited Session: Synergy of EO Products to Map the Essential Climate Variable Biomass, July 2010, agreed to contribute. Chris Schmuilius proposed to the ExComm that she step down as co-Chair of the Land Cover IT and that Martin Herold move into this position. She intends to focus efforts on leading the Biomass working group. The ExComm agreed to the change to be endorsed by the Chair and GTOS. **Actions:** GOF-C-GOLD Chair to endorse change in IT leadership and discuss with GTOS. Project Office to prepare appropriate letters for the changes.

5. Regional Networks

- Reports on Almaty workshop and Africa Data Initiative have been prepared by Olga Krankina and others. **Action:** Project Office to post on website. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer to report on status of Africa follow-up activities. The next Data Initiative being considered for Southeast Asia. The OSFAC Regional Network meeting will be held at Brazzaville, 2-4 February 2010 and attended by Philippe Mayaux and Chris Justice. The theme is monitoring carbon stocks and fluxes in the Congo Basin. Plans for the next workshop in Uzbekistan are under way.
- START update: The next proposal from START to NASA has been drafted. The current grant expires in June 2010. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer to provide Garik Gutman with status report of proposal features and timing.

6. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 21 January 2010.

7. List of Documents Circulated

- December update for event schedule 2009/10
- Minutes of 17 October telcon
- Draft report on 2009 GOFC-GOLD Strategy Meeting
- Summary notes of GTOS Steering Committee meeting (from GTOS Chair)

GOFC-GOLD Project Office