

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 28 January 2010

Participants: Michael Brady, Tony Janetos, Curtis Woodcock, Garik Gutman, Olivier Arino, Frank Martin Seifert, Olga Krankina, Martin Herold, Kathleen Landauer, Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- GEO Forest Carbon Tracking Science and Data Summit set for May at Woods Hole
- Fire IT has been successfully reformulated
- REDD working group and Sourcebook workshop planned for July at Columbia University
- GOFC-GOLD advocates for coordination between Sentinel 2 and Landsat
- EDC to host 2nd Data Initiative session late Spring 2010

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- Succession issues: the Fire IT has been reorganized, with several new members joining the team. Chris Justice and Johann Goldammer are continuing their roles as Co-Chairs. Martin Herold has been endorsed as a new Co-Chair, along with Curtis Woodcock. Chris Schmuilius plans to continue on the IT with a focus on leading the Biomass Working Group. **Action:** The Project Office will inform the GTOS Secretariat of the change in Co-Chair, and send formal letters to the incoming and departing Co-Chairs. Philippe Mayaux has stepped down as Vice-Chair, but plans to remain engaged with the Regional Networks in Africa. The Vice-Chair's role is to fill in for the Chair and Executive Director, and has a particular focus on Regional Network oversight. **Action:** Names of potential Vice-Chair candidates should be sent to the Project Office.
- Status of sponsor support renewals (CSA, ESA, NASA): The CSA and CFS are discussing plans for a new agreement, which will be for one to three years beginning in April. The START NASA proposal has been drafted, and will be finalized in February for submission to NASA. START will request that the current grant be extended for an additional year, expiring in June 2011. ESA plan to support the Land Cover IT Project Office through a competitive process beginning in February. The Statement of Work will be drafted early in February for GOFC-GOLD to agree on. Funds for the LC Project Office have been set aside at ESA for the next three years. The Fire IT will submit a proposal to NASA to seek support for the Fire IT Project Office.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GEO tasks: During the GEO Plenary, it was announced that the Forest Carbon Tracking (FCT) task is moving ahead to plan for an operational global monitoring system. A planning meeting will be held in Los Angeles in February for individuals mainly from operational agencies. Jim Baker of the Clinton Foundation will lead the meeting. A working group will be developed to work on a planning document, which will be presented at the GEO Plenary/Ministerial in Beijing in September. **Action:** Tony Janetos will contact Jim Baker to find out how they plan to get scientific input. The planning effort is linked to the FCT, but is intended to run in parallel. The operational forest monitoring system was discussed during the 2nd GEO Forest Symposium, where several issues were identified including; verification of the system, and the link between the user organization and national level organizations. GOFC-GOLD should advise GEO on what they will contribute to the FCT task. The primary contribution will be scientific advice with respect to remote sensing data and their analysis as

well as the scientific issues involved with using the information. The main focus of the FCT task in 2009 has been on working with the national demonstrators and data acquisition. In 2010 the focus will be on data acquisition (SAR) and the scientific exploitation of the required data, product definition, coordinating with current methods related to in situ, and to bring things together for Carbon accounting. In May there will be a GEO Forest Carbon Tracking Science and Data Summit, where the first results from evaluations of small sites using different methods to derive various forest carbon accounting products. The Summit will also discuss and refine data acquisition to determine long term planning. The Summit is currently focused on tropical regions.

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: At the GTOS Steering Committee meeting there was a discussion on panel communication. The GTOS Chair, Riccardo Valentini, and the TOPC Chair, Han Dolman were invited to join an Executive Committee teleconference to discuss ECV's. Olivier Arino will attend the TOPC annual meeting in March and can provide input on behalf of GOFC-GOLD.

3. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and plan: A GOFC-GOLD REDD working group and Sourcebook workshop is being planned from 5-9 July at Columbia University, New York. There will be an IPCC Expert Meeting on National Forest GHG Inventories, 23-25 February at Yokohama, where Frederic Achard, Danilo Mollicone, Sandra Brown, and Martin Herold will participate/present the REDD Sourcebook. Google presented at the Landsat Science Team meeting, and would like to produce online tools and imagery for forest change tracking. They would like ongoing guidance from groups like GOFC-GOLD and the REDD Working Group. For GLOBCOVER 2009, the processing of the images is on track, and the land cover should be ready for the validation work by the end of March 2010. Pierre DeFourney along with several others will be conducting an independent validation. GOFC-GOLD is advocating for coordination between Sentinel 2 and Landsat. The data collected should also be compatible so that end users can take advantage of both systems. **Action:** Project Office will draft a letter for ESA, NASA and USGS, and circulate it to the ExComm for comment. The next Land Cover IT Newsletter is being prepared; additional items should be submitted to Martin Herold. The relationship between the FRA and GOFC-GOLD should be formalized ahead of the upcoming capacity building workshops. The FRA group and GOFC-GOLD should coordinate Regional Networks. **Action:** Project Office to follow up with Eric Lindquist and Adam Gerrand. A Land Cover IT meeting is being discussed for late 2010.

4. Regional Networks

- Report on activities: The OSFAC regional meeting will take place 2-4 February at Brazzaville. The meeting is being sponsored by GOFC-GOLD through START and the JRC. The REDD Sourcebook will be presented and distributed at the meeting. The data initiative follow up activities conducted in the region will also be presented. The CARIN post meeting activities are being wrapped up, including a summary piece for the Land Cover IT Newsletter.
- Update on Data Initiative follow-up: Planning for the next data initiative session is underway. Participants from Asia will be the focal group. The session will again be hosted by the EROS Data Center likely in May 2010. **Action:** Suggestions for participants from SE Asia, and Central Asia should be sent to Olga Krankina. The contracts for the Africa Pilot follow up proposals are in progress, with the exception of one from Sudan. The follow up projects are

due for completion in June 2010. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer to circulate the proposal titles to the ExComm.

5. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 18 February 2010.

6. List of Documents Circulated

- January update for event schedule 2009/10
- Minutes of 17 December telcon

GOFC-GOLD Project Office