

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 15 April 2010

Participants: Michael Brady, Tony Janetos, Olga Krankina, Kathleen Landauer, Garik Gutman, Chris Justice, Krishna Vadrevu, Curtis Woodcock, Martin Herold, Erin Naydenov

Highlights and Action Items

- ESA responds to letter on cooperation between ESA and NASA/USGS Missions
- GOFC-GOLD input requested on global forest carbon tracking facility report
- GTOS requests GOFC-GOLD inputs to their implementation plan
- Implementation plan for the Biomass Working Group to be drafted

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- Space agency response to GOFC letter: ESA has responded, USGS will respond shortly, and NASA is having internal discussions and a response is being drafted. ESA indicated that things are on track. **Action:** Tony Janetos will request to see past LDCM-Sentinel-2 working group meeting minutes and the membership list, and request that GOFC-GOLD participate in future meetings. **Action:** Curtis Woodcock to seek participation through USGS. GOFC-GOLD will stress that Landsat is a part of a decadal survey mission.
- Status of sponsor support renewals: The START NASA proposal is being drafted. The past NASA grant was extended until June 2011. **Action:** START to circulate the draft proposal to the ExComm late-April. **Action:** START to circulate an accounting of the remaining NASA funds to the ExComm for planning purposes.
- ECV's: The ECV process appears to lack technical criteria on what should constitute an ECV, and how the community will know if the agencies are being responsive to hard technical questions about their products. It is not clear who has the final say of when an ECV is complete as the documents are always in a draft stage. The scientific community must have confidence when an agency says that it is addressing an ECV. **Action:** Michael Brady to distribute a short summary of the current process and how GOFC-GOLD, GCOS and GTOS are engaged. There are a number of documents in existence, but it is not clear how they are being revised.

2. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GEO tasks: There was a global forest carbon tracking (FCT) facility meeting in London. The meeting was for a small group of participants. The meeting report was circulated by Martin Herold. There was not too much progress in specifying what the intention of the group is and the goals are still generic. **Action:** GOFC-GOLD is requested to provide comments on the report. The next meeting is planned for mid-July in Frascati. GOFC-GOLD is concerned that the group will not be able to produce a report with technical depth, resulting in recommendations that will not be implemented. NASA should have a greater role in this group. The upcoming Woods Hole meeting in May will be important as it will focus on the scientific and technical issues that are involved. The FCT community has been asked to write documents on interoperability between radar and optical data for forest monitoring. There has been very little progress as there are no examples of interoperability between Radar and Lidar. The meeting will involve scientific presentations and discussions on the state of knowledge of interoperability. The results of this meeting will help inform the FCT task process. CEOS is

playing an increasing role in this task. There was a CEOS SIT meeting in Tokyo, where the FCT task was on the agenda. There is a GEO workshop coming up in Pretoria in May. This will be a planning and coordination meeting for representatives of the tasks and committees to update the GEO work plan and prepare for the Ministerial summit in November.

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: GTOS is developing their implementation plan and has requested that GOFC-GOLD complete templates about our activities related to the GTOS priority areas, which include climate, carbon cycle, land degradation and water scarcity, and biodiversity. **Action:** IT co-leads to complete the templates and submit to the Project Office.

3. Working Groups

- REDD WG workshop plans: A REDD workshop planning telcon will be held following this call, to discuss logistics.
- Biomass WG update: The BIOMASAR project, which produced large-area biomass maps is now complete (http://www.esa.int/esaEO/SEMWYRCKP6G_index_0.html). The SIR-C/X-SAR woody vegetation map for Kruger National Park is also complete. The biomass work in central Siberia will continue for another three year period, starting in October 2010. **Action:** Chris Schmullius to draft an Implementation Plan for the Biomass Working Group late-April. The GOFC-GOLD Biomass Implementation Plan will complement the existing GTOS ECV Biomass document from an operational Earth observation perspective and will be a living document to accompany the envisaged new GOFC-GOLD Biomass Implementation Team. The draft implementation plan will be finalized for the next biomass working group meeting at IGARSS in July.

4. Regional Networks

- Update on Asia Data Initiative session: There are six participants set to participate in the training session at EDC in May. Several side visits are being arranged.

5. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 20 May 2010.

6. List of Documents Circulated

- April update for event schedule 2010
- Minutes of March 2010 teleconference
- GTOS template for panel activities
- ESA response letter
- Draft GEO forest monitoring working group report

GOFC-GOLD Project Office