

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 20 May 2010

Participants: Michael Brady, Tony Janetos, Olga Krankina, Kathleen Landauer, Garik Gutman, Krishna Vadrevu, Curtis Woodcock, Martin Herold, Frank Martin Seifert, Chris Schmallius

Highlights and Action Items

- GOFC-GOLD advocating stronger cooperation on upcoming optical satellite missions
- Asia Data Initiative strengthens GOFC-GOLD regional networks
- A new fire specialist is supporting regional network fire related activities
- GOFC-GOLD and Google developing plans for cooperation
- Biomass working group planning biomass map of Northern Hemisphere
- GOFC-GOLD begins addressing land use mapping through agricultural monitoring

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- Space agency response to GOFC-GOLD letter: Responses from the three agencies were received and circulated. Following a discussion of possible follow-up actions, it was agreed that engagement in the LDCM-Sentinel-2 working groups would be carried out by the ExComm members now involved, including Curtis Woodcock and Garik Gutman (LDCM) and Olivier Arino (Sentinel-2). **Action:** Chris Schmallius to brief Oliver Arino on point of contact role. **Action:** Michael Brady to draft thank you letter to three agencies and to explain approach of staying in contact with the working groups through our points of contact. There was interest in building on the advocacy for optical system interoperability by engaging with China and Brazil (CBERS) and India (AWIFS).
- Status of sponsor support renewals: Kathleen Landauer reported that the START NASA proposal draft is nearly completed. The past NASA grant was extended until June 2011. **Action:** START to circulate the draft proposal to the ExComm late-May.

2. Regional Networks

- Asia Data Initiative session: Olga Krankina reported that the Data Initiative was successfully completed at EROS involving representatives from the Southeast Asia (SEARRIN) and Northern Eurasia (NERIN) regional networks. Considerable data for each region was compiled and brought back by the participants. Follow-up activities to distribute and use the data in the regions are being planned and proposals developed. **Action:** Olga Krankina to prepare a report on the initiative.
- East Asia Workshop: Michael Brady circulated a summary of the workshop held at Beijing, 29-30 April. The Chinese Academy of Forestry is now the designated focal point for East Asia regional activities. At the workshop the Asia-Pacific Forest Network (APFNet) invited proposals for forest monitoring activities in the region, including Southeast Asia. The GOFC-GOLD plan of developing a regional network of in-situ validation test sites was recommended as a proposed activity for support. **Action:** Michael Brady to complete workshop report.
- The REDLATIF network coordinator, Isabel Cruz, is organizing the annual planning meeting to be held 9-10 November at Guanajuato, Mexico. The meeting will be followed by a joint meeting with the SERENA network, which is addressing burned area mapping within the context of land cover change mapping in Latin America. The meetings are important as they

strengthen the links among Latin American networks, as well as the themes of fire as a land cover change agent. REDLATIF has sent a letter to the Project Office with a request for \$10 K financial support (as indicated in activity schedule). **Action:** Kathleen Landauer to confirm support to Isabel Cruz.

- START support activities: Kathleen Landauer reported that additional network representatives will be attending the upcoming REDD Sourcebook workshop at Victoria, Canada, including WARN, OSFAC, SEARRIN and REDLATIF.
- Additional Network Support: Chris Justice announced that Olga Krankina will be joined by Anja Hoffmann to help coordinate fire observation topics among the regional networks. Anja is a wildland fire specialist with experience in Asia and Africa. **Action:** Michael Brady to prepare invitation letter and network background information for Anja Hoffmann.

3. Fire IT Update

- Krishna Vadrevu summarized the key results of the recently held Fire IT meeting (notes attached). He reviewed several Fire IT events planned at the workshop (see updated event schedule), which include a workshop on the fire risk assessment in November, 2010, the Fifth International Wildland Fire Conference in May 2011 (involving SAFNET and WARN regional networks), a fuel consumption/biomass combustion workshop and training for networks. In addition, Johann Goldammer is organizing a joint meeting in June at GFMC with the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group (WFAG), the Fire Aviation Working Group (FAWG), International Liaison Committee (ILC) for the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference and Fire Management Actions Alliance (FMAA), in cooperation with and supported by the Euro-Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) Council of Europe.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Activities and Plans: Curtis Woodcock explained the current discussions with Rebecca Moore at Google towards a closer relationship. Discussions indicated that there is strong support for trying to develop a closer relationship and for GOFC-GOLD to be able to provide some advice and guidance as Google moves forward with Earth Engine. This of particular note, as Google appears interested in incorporating land cover validation and going beyond tropical deforestation to broader land cover issues. The key question raised is how to structure the relationship in such a way that it is mutually beneficial. Curtis Woodcock proposed that a plan be developed and that this be discussed in detail at the upcoming Sourcebook workshop in July. **Action:** Michael Brady to send Google an invitation to attend the Sourcebook workshop in July, and to arrange a session to review and discuss Google tools and applications with a view to building land cover validation into Earth Engine.
- Martin Herold provided written comments on the report of the GEO global forest carbon tracking (FCT) facility meeting in London. The next meeting is planned for mid-July in Frascati.
- Frank Martin Seifert within the framework of the GMES initiative, ESA is developing a series of ‘Sentinel’ satellites. As part of this development process, the Agency has released a call for Mission Advisory Group members for the Sentinel-3 mission. He suggested that GOFC-GOLD should nominate a candidate and that applications can be made via the

following website: <http://missionadvice.esa.int>. **Action:** ExComm to identify candidate and prepare letters of support.

- Curtis Woodcock reported on the GEO FCT data workshop at Woods Hole in May and will forward the report when available.

5. Working Groups

- REDD WG workshop plans: Martin Herold reported that planning is going well for the July REDD Sourcebook workshop. Participants have been invited and a programme developed. Martin Herold will present the Sourcebook at the June SBSTA technical meeting at Bonn.
- Biomass WG update: Chris Schmullius reported on a new EC biomass project "ZAPÁS" between Uni Jena and Russian partners will start in October 2010 with a 3-year lifetime. She also presented the GOFC-GOLD Biomass Working Group organization at a recent DRAGON project meeting at ESA. **Action:** Chris to distribute presentation. She mentioned that the BIOMASAR project extension has been acknowledged by ESA (planned biomass map of Northern Hemisphere with ASAR Global Monitoring data). The radar contribution to the accepted new ESA ECV Land Cover project is under negotiation. As well, the first biomass trends for China have been detected in radar-retrieved growing stock volume maps for the 95-97 period vs. 2007. The 2nd Biomass Working Group meeting will follow the Biomass Session at IGARSS in July. A venue has been arranged. **Action:** Chris Schmullius to draft an Implementation Plan for the Biomass Working Group to be finalized at the July meeting.
- Agriculture Monitoring-Land Use Community of Practice (CoP) update: USDA will be organizing a climate change symposium during the spring 2011 at Washington DC. Agricultural component should be emphasized through GOFC-GOLD. **Action:** Fire IT project Office to provide details as available. Note: it is anticipated that the CoP will be represented as a GOFC-GOLD WG to fulfill the strategic plan for GOFC-GOLD to address land use mapping and monitoring.

6. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GTOS update and requests for GOFC inputs: GTOS is developing their implementation plan and requested GOFC-GOLD inputs. The IT co-leads completed the GTOS work plan templates, which were compiled by the Project Office and submitted. Tony and Michael will participate in a telcon in mid June with GTOS Chair and Programme Chair to discuss new strategy and role of GOFC-GOLD panel.

7. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 24 June 2010.

8. List of Documents Circulated

- May update of event schedule 2010
- April 2010 teleconference minutes
- NASA response letter
- East Asia workshop note
- March Fire IT meeting notes

GOFC-GOLD Project Office