

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 5 August 2010**

Participants: Tony Janetos, Michael Brady, Hassan Virji, Kathleen Landauer, Johann Goldammer, Garik Gutman, Krishna Vadrevu, Chris Schmullius, Olga Krankina

### **Highlights**

- GOFC-GOLD and Google discussing cooperation on global validation and accuracy assessment
- Chinese Academy of Forestry and GOFC-GOLD to develop monitoring guide for East Asia
- New regional network coordinator to support fire mapping and monitoring support
- GOFC-GOLD fire team providing Earth observations for fire disaster in Russia
- New biomass working group meets at IGARSS 2010
- Workshop establishes plan for update of GOFC-GOLD REDD Sourcebook
- GOFC-GOLD contributing to GEO's new Global Forest Observations Initiative

### **Details**

#### **1. Remarks from the Chair**

- NASA regional network proposal feedback: Tony Janetos commented that the revised proposal has addressed the issues and concerns raised in earlier discussions. The proposal retains the five core activities with more detail on how they will be administered during the project period. The proposal should be further specified by including the planned activities of GOFC-GOLD. **Action:** Michael Brady to provide START with 2011 activity schedule. The ExComm agreed that the proposal should be submitted to NASA.
- Google cooperation: Tony Janetos reviewed the recent discussions with the Google Foundation (Google.org) regarding establishing collaborative activities. The most recent discussions were at the Sourcebook workshop at Victoria in early July. Ideas discussed included formation of a working group to address accuracy assessment aspects of the new Google Earth Engine application and the provision of support from Google for GOFC-GOLD to create a network of validation reference sites around the globe. The ExComm expressed interest in further discussions leading to a well defined collaborative, but non binding arrangement. Curtis Woodcock has agreed to lead the GOFC-GOLD discussions with Google, including a proposal for joint activities with a view to starting before the end of 2010. **Action:** Curtis to send the ExComm his notes on the Google discussions to date.

#### **2. Regional Networks**

- Olga Krankina reported on preparations for the Land-Cover/Land-Use Change (LCLUC) Science Team meeting, which will be held jointly with the GOFC-GOLD Northern Eurasia Regional Information Network (NERIN) and the Northern Eurasia Earth Science Partnership Initiative (NEESPI) at Tartu, Estonia, 25-29 August. The issue of a new Baltic regional network will also be discussed.
- Michael Brady reported on the meeting held 23 July with the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) at Beijing regarding follow-up activities from the International Workshop on Forest Monitoring in the Asia-Pacific Region, Beijing, China, 29-30 April 2010. Topics included: discussions of CAF interest in acting as the coordinating agency for a GOFC-GOLD East Asia regional network; plans to formulate a forest monitoring training guide for East Asia

(SEARRIN network members and the REDD Sourcebook working group to be engaged), and potential participation in a GOFC-GOLD network of validation reference sites.

- Garik Gutman asked about the status of land cover activities in GOFC-GOLD networks in Latin America (LA). Olga Krankina explained that REDLATIFF is the only LA network, but that there have been two efforts to address land cover: the SERENA land cover project led by the former REDLATIF coordinator, Carlos DeBella; and the Amazon Basin network initiative led by Carlos Souza. **Action:** Michael Brady will contact Carlos Souza to request an update on the AB network. Kathleen reported that START will be providing travel support for the Redlatif meeting on 9-10 November at Guanajuato, Mexico. A review of the preliminary agenda suggests that additional guidance is needed from the Fire IT to strengthen the programme. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer will distribute the agenda to Chris Justice, Olga Krankina and Anja Hoffmann for their review. Garik Gutman also reported on initial plans for a Southeast Asia network meeting to follow on the Khonkaen workshop held in January 2009, which was jointly sponsored by NASA LCLUC, GOFC-GOLD and MAIRS. (<http://lcluc.umd.edu/meetings.php?mid=15>). He suggested that the event be held at the end of 2011-beginning of 2012, with possible venues at Hong Kong, China, or Vietnam.

### 3. Fire IT Update

- Johann Goldammer described his current work to assist Russia agencies in dealing with the extensive forest fires in that country. He commented that the fires are a disaster. Assistance includes providing satellite imagery to identify active fires. He also reiterated the usefulness of having his colleague at GFMC, Anja Hoffmann, act as a joint coordinator for both the GFMC regional wildland fire networks, as well as the GOFC-GOLD networks that have an interest in fire issues. Initial activities will be to foster network involvement in the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference to be held in South Africa in 2011 under the auspices of UNISDR and FAO. The ExComm agreed to this arrangement. **Action:** Michael Brady to send a letter to Anja Hoffmann, inviting her to work with Olga Krankina on regional network coordination and support activities.

### 4. Working Groups

- REDD WG workshop plans: Michael Brady reported (on behalf of Martin Herold) that the July REDD Sourcebook workshop at the Canadian Forest Service included 47 participants from 20 countries. The workshop resulted in a plan to revise and expand the next version of the Sourcebook in time for COP16 in early December at Mexico. Substantial work is planned to address the five activities under the new REDD plus framework. Several regional network representatives attended to provide user perspectives and experience with the Sourcebook. The OSFAC representative, Landing Mane, is now engaged in the planned revision work.
- GEO Agricultural Monitoring task: Chris Justice indicated that the task will hold a joint event with IIASA on land cover inter comparison early in 2011. **Action:** Chris Justice to provide an update on activities and plans, as well as guidance on how to strengthen links between the task and GOFC-GOLD for land use analysis.
- Biomass WG update: Chris Schmillius reported on the biomass working group meeting held in July during the IGARSS conference at Hawaii. The meeting was well attended. Nine presentations were given and a mailing list of about 100 people produced. She reported that the conference and meeting discussions reiterated the need for such a working group. Three co-leads were tentatively identified, including Chris Schmillius, Matt Hansen (SDSU) and

Ron Hall (CFS). The three are currently drafting a protocol for the group organization. **Action:** Chris Schmallius to distribute protocol to ExComm when prepared. She emphasized the need for the working group to closely coordinate its activities with GTOS and FAO, particularly regarding further development of the Biomass ECV document. **Action:** Michael Brady to discuss new group with GTOS Programme Director and TOPC Panel Chair. She mentioned the intention for a working group meeting in 2011 and the need for GOFC-GOLD support.

#### **5. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters**

- GEO matters: Martin Herold circulated the report of the GEO Planning Group meeting on the Global Forest Monitoring Network, 13-14 July 2010 at Frascati. The objective of the meeting was to progress the drafting of the Concept Phase Report for the Global Forest Observations Initiative and to define steps to prepare the report for submission to the GEO plenary and ministerial meetings at Beijing in November 2010. He noted that GOFC-GOLD activities and contributions are described in the report. The term Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) is now being used for the planned GEO activity and for the subject of the Concept Phase Report. Action: Martin Herold to keep the ExComm informed of activities of the GEO work leading up to the Ministerial Summit in November.

#### **6. Any other business**

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 15 September 2010.

#### **7. List of Documents Circulated**

- July update of event schedule 2010
- June 2010 teleconference minutes
- Report of the GEO Planning Group on the Global Forest Monitoring Network, 13-14 July 2010, Frascati
- REDD Sourcebook updated outline

GOFC-GOLD Project Office