

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 20 October 2010**

Participants: Michael Brady, Martin Herold, Kathleen Landauer, Johann Goldammer, Curtis Woodcock, Krishna Vadrevu, Chris Schnullius

### **Highlights**

- GOFC-GOLD supports efforts to establish a World Forest Observatory
- 2010 Data Initiative generating new initiatives with regional networks
- Regional networks in Africa to meet at International Wildland Fire Conference
- Results being evaluated for new survey of land cover user needs
- 2010 Sourcebook update being prepared for distribution at COP 16
- Biomass working group produces new forest map for Mexico

### **Details**

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

- World Forest Observatory: Michael Brady circulated the draft letter of support for the committee to review. There were no substantial comments and the letter was approved. It was noted that Martin Herold and Curtis Woodcock are in the WFO scientific advisory group. **Action:** Michael Brady to send letter to Alan Grainger. The WFO proposal had been submitted to the Resources For the Future (RFF) and Sloan Foundation for funding.
- As a general discussion item, Krishna Vadrevu requested that the Committee consider publishing a journal article on the current work of GOFC-GOLD. He has received requests for such a publication. It was agreed that such an article would best be produced following the next GOFC-GOLD Land Cover Symposium, which is anticipated for 2011 once the Land Cover Project Office is re established.

#### **2. Regional Networks (RN)**

- Michael Brady reported that a letter was sent to all RN representatives regarding the appointment of Anja Hoffman as the Fire Coordinator for the RNs. Anja Hoffman is working with Olga Krankina to identify coordination needs among the RNs.
- Kathleen Landauer explained that the current NASA grant will be completed by June 2011 and that RN travel support funds are available for use until then. The new RN support proposal was submitted to NASA and is currently being reviewed. She reported that the MIOMBO RN is being reactivated and intends to hold a science and planning workshop in 2011. The Committee suggested that the MIOMBO RN hold its event to coincide with the Wildfire Conference in May 2011 at S. Africa, which will also allow them to participate in the conference and the GOFC-GOLD RN fire meeting. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer to propose the arrangement to MIOMBO. SEARRIN, the Southeast Asia RN, also submitted a proposal for a regional follow-up workshop after the recent RN Data Initiative. The Committee suggested that the event could be scheduled to coincide with the next LCLUC workshop planned for 2011 at Vietnam. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer to explain the event coordination proposal to SEARRIN representative and request that members be consulted on their needs and preferences. Related to this region, Michael Brady reported on East Asia RN development with the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), which is hosting the Asia Pacific Forest Network (APFNet). A plan of work has been developed to strengthen forest mapping and monitoring in East Asia, including the use of regionally available EO data sources. The

plan will be presented at the upcoming GEO Plenary at Beijing. With GOF-C-GOLD assistance, CAF will present the activities at the upcoming GEO Summit at Beijing in November. **Action:** Michael Brady to discuss with CAF their participation with SEARRIN in the upcoming LCLUC workshop.

### 3. Fire IT Update

- Johann Goldammer reported on his involvement in preparations for the upcoming Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit to be held in 2012 at Russia. The Summit will include EO topics. The Committee noted the APEC related activities in both Russia and China and the involvement of GOF-C-GOLD. **Action:** Michael Brady to send APFNet information to Johann Goldammer. He also reviewed plans for the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference to be held in South Africa in May 2011. Anja Hoffmann is organizing the side meeting of GOF-C-GOLD RNs with an interest in fire issues, as well as the SAFNet RN planning meeting which will coincide with the conference. **Action:** Krishna Vadrevu to work with Anja Hoffmann and Kathleen Landauer to coordinate the agreed upon activities at the conference.
- Krishna Vadrevu reported that the survey on fire EO information needs has been completed and sent to the ESA Climate Change Initiative. He also reported on preparations for the conference planned for 8-9 November 2010 at St. Petersburg, Russia, on Open Burning and the Arctic: Causes, Impacts, and Mitigation Approaches (<http://www.bellona.org/fires-and-the-arctic>).

### 4. Land Cover IT Update

- Martin Herold reported on the ESA climate change initiative (CCI), which is a contribution to the GCOS Implementation Plan. The land cover user needs survey was completed and results are being evaluated. **Action:** Martin Herold to determine if survey results could be added to the GOF-C-GOLD report series. He also informed the Committee that ESA has indicated it will issue a project tender this year for the GOF-C-GOLD Land Cover Project Office. **Action:** Olivier Arino to update Committee on tender status. He also reported on a recent meeting at FAO regarding the Forest Resource Assessment (FRA), Remote Sensing Survey (RSS). Adam Gerrand would like further discussions with GOF-C-GOLD to clarify its role in the RSS, with a particular focus on CalVal, peer review, and dissemination of results. The RSS is planned for completion by November 2011. **Action:** Michael Brady to organize a telcon with Adam Gerrand and members of the Land Cover IT.

### 5. Working Groups

- GOF-C-GOLD Sourcebook: Martin Herold reported that the 2010 update is underway and follows the detailed guidance from the planning workshop at Victoria in July. The Project Office at the CFS will put the new version on CDs, which will include a brochure. The CDs will be distributed at COP 16 at Cancun in December. The two initial venues for distribution include a presentation at Forest Days and at the ESA booth.
- Biomass WG update: Chris Schmullius reported that a preliminary 1 km (and partly 150 m) biomass map has been prepared to support Mexico's involvement in the GEO FCT task as a national demonstrator country. The map is based on hypertemporal Envisat ASAR Global Monitoring and Wide-Swath data and requires further CalVal. Results from the Mexico work will be displayed at CoP 16. The algorithm was developed in the ESA BIOMASAR-project

jointly with Maurizio Santoro, and is now being continued in the project BIOMASAR-2 to map forest growing stock volume of the Northern hemisphere North of 40 degrees latitude. She also described the ongoing FRA-RSS mapping work in the tropics using high resolution TerraSAR-X data over high cloud cover sites. 350 sites will be processed using six cover classes. She is searching for in situ data for the sites. The data will be sent to national experts for validation. Chris Schmullius also described the new ZAPÁS-project for biomass mapping in Russia (zapas means growing stock in Russian). Further information was given on the new DLR BIROS microsat (BIRD satellite follow on), which in 2013 will measure fire intensity. The Project Office has invited Chris Schmullius to present her biomass work at the international conference on Understanding Circumpolar Ecosystems in a Changing World: Outcomes of the International Polar Year, at Edmonton, Canada, 3-6 November.

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

- GEO: Michael Brady reported that advances in the GEO forest carbon tracking (FCT) task and associated Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI) is an agenda item at the GEO Plenary and Ministerial Summit at Beijing, 3-5 November. GTOS and GOFC-GOLD are identified as task members, but the national GEO members are highlighted. **Action:** Michael Brady to provide GOFC-GOLD materials for GTOS-GOOS-GCOS booth.
- GCOS: Martin Herold reviewed the status of the 2010 GCOS Implementation Plan. **Action:** Martin Herold to lead further discussions with the Committee and draft a response to the letter from GCOS. The letter requests support for the expert groups involved in scientific analysis, inter comparison and review of climate data records.

## **7. Any other business**

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 17 November 2010

## **8. List of Documents Circulated**

- October update of event schedule 2010
- Proposal from MIOMBO regional Network
- Frascati Fire IT meeting outcomes published in Earth Observer
- Support letter for WFO concept
- China global land cover mapping workshop announcement

GOFC-GOLD Project Office