

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 17 November 2010**

Participants: Tony Janetos, Michael Brady, Martin Herold, Kathleen Landauer, Curtis Woodcock, Krishna Vadrevu

### **Highlights**

- GOFC-GOLD supports new US involvement in GEO forest initiatives
- New Central Asia Regional Network holds successful workshop at Tashkent
- Asia Pacific Forest Network plans pilot project for Mekong subregion
- GOFC-GOLD to cooperate with IPCC LULUCF panel
- ESA Sentinel-2 mission advisory group includes GOFC-GOLD scientist
- Updated REDD Sourcebook to be presented at side events at COP 16, Cancun

### **Details**

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

- GEO Plenary and Ministerial: Tony Janetos reviewed the 29 October announcement by the US GEO to engage as co-leads in the forest carbon tracking (FCT) task and associated global forest observation initiative (GOFI) (letter circulated). The US contributions will be through the Global Landcover Data Initiative and the SilvaCarbon programs. These programs involve existing GOFC-GOLD members. **Action:** Tony Janetos to contact Peter Colohan (OSTP) and Len Hirsch (Smithsonian) of US GEO to discuss GOFC-GOLD US engagement.
- World Forest Observatory: Michael Brady reported that the letter of support was sent to Alan Grainger. The WFO proposal was submitted to the Sloan Foundation for funding and was endorsed. A subsidiary proposal for the first 15 months, beginning in January 2010, was also submitted. **Action:** Michael Brady to discuss 2011 plans for the advisory body with Alan Grainger.

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

- Olga Krankina provided a written report on the successful workshop of the CARIN RN at Tashkent from 31 October to 2 November, which included follow up on the data initiative, training and planning. Plans are being developed for a NERIN RN workshop on fire and drought monitoring for regional users in May-June 2011 (exact dates TBD). Anja Hoffmann is making good progress planning the South Africa inter-RN meeting for May 2011.
- Kathleen Landauer reported that the new RN grant proposal is being evaluated by NASA. She suggested that the successful Data Initiative activity be continued with Latin America as the next region of focus. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer to initiate discussions with Isabel Cruz of the Redlatif RN and Carlos Souza at IMAZON.
- Michael Brady reported on East Asia RN developments with the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), which hosts the Asia Pacific Forest Network (APFNet). The plan of work was developed with GOFC-GOLD to strengthen forest mapping and monitoring in East Asia, including the use of regionally available EO data sources. A training session and pilot project meeting are planned for 3-13 January at Nanning, China. Participants for the training and pilot are from the countries in the Mekong sub region. **Action:** Michael Brady to circulate the event program and to discuss with Curtis Woodcock the opportunity to introduce the GOFC-GOLD global validation test site network for the Mekong pilot forest mapping activity.

### 3. Fire IT Update

- Anja Hoffmann provided a written report on plans for the RN fire meeting to be held at the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference to be held in South Africa in May 2011. She requested support from the Committee to ensure that all RNs are contacted and able to send a representative to attend.
- Krishna Vadrevu reported on the recent meeting from 8-9 November 2010 at St. Petersburg, Russia, on Open Burning and the Arctic: Causes, Impacts, and Mitigation Approaches. **Action:** Krishna Vadrevu to post the meeting report on the Fire IT website. He also reported on the Fire Early Warning System development activity. The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) organized a workshop inviting experts to start a new initiative termed – CLIM-WARN. It is a new concept and initiative relating to Climate-Related Global Early Warning System focusing on heat waves, droughts, floods and wild fires. As a part of CLIM-WARN, some pilot projects are being planned in the coming months/year. **Action:** Krishna Vadrevu to check that the GOFC-GOLD led GEO task on fire early warning is linked to the new CLIM-WARN activity.

### 4. Land Cover IT Update

- Martin Herold reported that he is now a member of the Advisory Group for the ESA Sentinel-2 Mission. The Committee discussed how this will help to further promote GOFC-GOLD efforts to foster increased coordination between the Sentinel and LDCM missions. He also mentioned that the IPCC LULUCF panel released a report on the expert meeting held earlier this year, which identifies the need for the IPCC to collaborate with other international initiatives on setting remote sensing guidelines for forest monitoring, including GEOSS and GOFC-GOLD. The report is cited as: IPCC 2010, IPCC Expert Meeting on National Forest GHG Inventories – a Stock Taking, eds: Eggleston, H.S., Srivastava, N., Tanabe, K., Baasansuren, J., IGES, Japan. He also reported on his involvement in an EU supported proposal being developed related to the Global Carbon Observing System, which is related to the GEO carbon task.
- Curtis Woodcock explained the background of the planned workshop for China's Global Land Cover Mapping Project, 12-14 January 2011 at Beijing (document circulated). He reported on discussions that he and Chris Justice have had with the US-based Chinese scientists who are organizing the workshop. To promote international coordination, GOFC-GOLD members intend to participate and include Tom Loveland, Jeff Masek and Michael Brady.
- Olivier Arino provided a written report to announce that GlobCorine 2009 will be released 17 November with product description and validation report. GlobCover 2009 is under validation and final presentation and release is planned for mid December. The Statement of Work for the GOFC-GOLD Land Cover Project Office is to be issued in December for competition. ESA plans to hold a side event during the UNFCCC COP-16 in Cancun on the ESA Climate Change Initiative, and will have a booth where GOFC-GOLD information can be displayed.

### 5. Working Groups

- GOFC-GOLD Sourcebook: Martin Herold reported that the 2010 update is nearly completed. Arrangements have been made to present the Sourcebook at several COP 16 events including the CIFOR Forest Day and the ESA booth. The Project Office at the CFS has arranged to put the new version on CDs for distribution at COP 16.

- Biomass WG update: Chris Schnullius provided a report on preparations for a large EU FP7 proposal to assess Trends and Hazards in Arctic Warming: Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions from Arctic permafrost regions (THAW), which will include spatial assessment of biomass. A graduate student from Jena presented the proposed study at the international conference on Understanding Circumpolar Ecosystems in a Changing World: Outcomes of the International Polar Year, at Edmonton, Canada, 3-6 November. As a result, The GOFC-GOLD Project Office at the CFS was included in the proposal as a contributor.
- Land Use WG (under consideration): Chris Justice submitted a report on the activities of the GEO Agriculture Land Use Monitoring task, and efforts to create a partnership with GOFC-GOLD. He reported on plans for a meeting at IIASA supported by Steffen Fritz in June 2011 (second week) to initiate a comparison of global land cover products to identify the best available Land Cover/Use maps (with some emphasis being place on Africa) - which is clearly of interest to GOFC-GOLD LCIT. **Action:** Chris Justice to propose that the meeting is identified as a joint GOFC-GOFC event.

## 6. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GEO: Michael Brady reported on results of the GEO Plenary and Ministerial Summit at Beijing, 3-5 November with respect to the GEO forest carbon tracking (FCT) task and associated Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI), which was an agenda item. GOFC-GOLD materials were displayed at the GTOS-GOOS-GCOS booth. Chris Justice was the only ExComm members at the event. In his written report to the ExComm he observed that GOFC-GOLD had little visibility at the event and that the GEO forest work has momentum. He commented that the GEO Communities of Practice (CP) were highlighted at the event and suggested that GOFC-GOLD strengthen its position in GEO by becoming recognized as the Forest CP. A Forest CP was established in 2006 by Canada, which includes GOFC-GOLD members, but has mainly been active in the activities of the GEO User Interface Committee. **Action:** Michael Brady and Chris Justice to discuss with the ExComm actions needed to recognize this GOFC-GOLD role in GEO. A GFOI task force was endorsed and encouraged to prepare a plan of work to be presented at the next plenary. **Action:** Martin Herold and Mike Wulder to confirm their continued participation in the GFOI. GTOS representatives attended the plenary and summit, but no formal interventions were provided. At the User Engagement workshop, the Chinese Academy of Forestry (with GOFC-GOLD assistance) presented the Asia Pacific Forest Network (APFNet) plan of work to strengthen forest mapping and monitoring in East Asia, including the use of regionally available EO data sources (see RN section for more details). Upcoming FCT events include an IPCC-GEOSS workshop, 1-4 February 2011 at Geneva, and the national Demonstrator Summit and Second Science and Data Summit from 7-10 February 2011 at FAO, Rome. The three GOFC-GOLD FCT task members (Woodcock, Herold and Brady) plan to attend.
- GTOS: Tony Janetos received an invitation from GTSO to speak at the GTOS-GCOS-GOOS side event at COP 16 on 30 November. **Action:** Tony Janetos to confirm GOFC-GOLD speaker.

## 7. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 15 December 2010
- A 2011 telcon schedule will be distributed

## 8. List of Documents Circulated

- November update of event schedule 2010
- Proposal from SEARRIN regional Network
- Response from Alan Grainger on WFO proposal status
- Letter of US GEO support for work plan tasks

GOFC-GOLD Project Office