

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 15 December 2010

Participants: Tony Janetos, Michael Brady, Martin Herold, Chris Justice, Garik Gutman, Olga Krankina, Chris Schmuilius, Olivier Arino, Frank Martin Seifert

Highlights

- New version of GOFC-GOLD Sourcebook presented at Cancun COP 16
- GOFC-GOLD supports forest mapping in seven countries in the Mekong region, SE Asia
- Successful Central Asia Regional workshop leads to new land cover initiatives
- GOFC-GOLD transfers operational fire monitoring system to FAO
- Advocacy promotes interoperability of upcoming Sentinel 2 and LDCM launches

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- GEO Plenary and Ministerial: Tony Janetos met with Sherburne Abbott, the US GEO lead, to review engagement with the forest carbon tracking (FCT) task. He was directed to the key US agencies involved for further discussions (USGS, USDS-USFS). Doug Muchoney (USGS) is the point of contact for the FCT, while Len Hirsch (Smithsonian) is the point of contact for the Global Forest Observation Initiative (GOFI).

2. Regional Networks (RN)

- Olga Krankina reported that following the CARIN RN workshop at Tashkent in October, follow-up proposals are being prepared. **Action:** She will discuss proposal funding with Kathleen Landauer at START. Olga Krankina also reported that Anja Hoffmann is making good progress planning the South Africa inter-RN meeting for May 2011. Budget requirements, however, will likely exceed funds available from GOFC-GOLD. Olga Krankina also reported that the REDLATIF RN successfully completed their annual meeting and that a report has been submitted. **Action:** Michael Brady to post REDLATIF report on the website.
- Garik Gutman announced that the GOFC-GOLD/START proposal for 2011-2014 has been accepted in principle and funding will be arranged in the new year. The Executive Committee expressed their sincere gratitude to NASA for the ongoing support to the panel. **Action:** Garik Gutman to correspond with START regarding the proposal acceptance.
- Michael Brady reported on plans for the East Asia RN training workshop and pilot project meeting to be held from 3-13 January at Nanning, China. Participants for the training and pilot are from the seven countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). The pilot project is to be developed for forest cover mapping and carbon estimation for the GMS. **Action:** Michael Brady to discuss with Curtis Woodcock the opportunity to introduce the GOFC-GOLD global validation test site network for the Mekong pilot forest mapping activity.
- Chris Justice requested that representatives from the Africa RNs participate in the upcoming GOFC-GOLD - GEO agricultural monitoring, land cover inter comparison meeting at IIASA, 13-15 June. He suggested invitees could include: D. Kwesha, C. Mbow, L. Mane. **Action:** Chris Justice to clarify if travel support is available through GEO. **Action:** Olga Krankina and Anja Hoffmann to provide 3-4 names of invitees. **Action:** Michael Brady to send invitation letters.

3. Fire IT Update

- Chris Justice reported that the Coimbra workshop on fire risk assessment was successful and that a report is being prepared. The fire early warning system project is proceeding, but slowly. The FIRMS active fire monitoring system has been transferred from UMD to FAO and is in operation. He also reported on initial plans to hold the next Fire IT meeting in conjunction with an EARSel conference at Ispra later in October or November 2011.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Martin Herold reported that he is now a member of the Advisory Group for the ESA Sentinel-2 Mission. He will attend a science products meeting at Frascati in March. He also discussed plans for the LC-IT-CEOS LPV meeting on land cover validation, planned for June at IIASA. **Action:** Martin Herold to discuss with Olga Krankina the possible participation of Africa RN representatives at the meeting as they will be at IIASA for the GEO LC intercomparison meeting to be held earlier in the same week. He also reported on the status of the 2010 update of the GCOS Implementation Plan. After seeing that the GOF-C-GOLD submission on the draft plan was ignored, he sent a letter to the GCOS secretariat requesting an explanation as to how technical submissions are addressed in the GCOS document revision process.
- Olivier Arino reported that the LC-IT tender will be issued in December. He anticipates that the tender process is open to all, including universities. He also reported that regarding the GOF-C-GOLD concern for Sentinel 2-LDCM coordination activities, he will attend the Landsat science team meeting in March at Phoenix. The ESA activities at COP 16 can be viewed on the ESA website. He also announced the completion of the review report on user requirements under the ESA Climate Change Initiative. **Action:** Olivier Arino to provide the report to the LC-IT for review. The 2009 GlobCover map will be released in December on the GlobCover website. The validation report will be available in 2011. Frank Martin Seifert reported on the FCT activities at COP 16, which included meetings with national demonstrator (ND) countries. He reported on preparations for the FCT ND and data meetings to be held at FAO in February 2011.
- Michael Brady reported for Curtis Woodcock on planning for the workshop for China's global land Cover mapping project, 12-14 January 2011 at Beijing. GOF-C-GOLD members intending to participate include Tom Loveland and Michael Brady. **Action:** Michael Brady to request a slot in the agenda to present the work of GOF-C-GOLD.

5. Working Groups

- GOF-C-GOLD Sourcebook: Martin Herold reported that the 2010 update was completed and CDs produced by the Project Office. He presented Sourcebook at several COP 16 events at Cancun, including the CIFOR Forest Day and the ESA booth. Under the LCA decision at COP 16, the REDD mechanism was further articulated, including the request that developing countries establish national forest monitoring programmes. The SBSTA was requested to further develop technical and training aspects of REDD. **Action:** Martin Herold to arrange for Sourcebook to be further updated with COP 16 results and decisions.
- Biomass WG update: Chris Schmillius reported that the Mexico 1 km biomass map was completed and presented by CONABIO at COP 16. As well, she described the project activities of for 1 km mapping biomass of the northern hemisphere. She reported on two recent biomass related meetings. The first was an EEA meeting at Copenhagen involving a

Russian delegation with discussion on developing a joint Russia-EU initiative for forest and land cover monitoring, including identification of hot spots of deforestation and information sharing mechanisms. The second event was the international workshop on global measurements of forest biomass, hosted by CNES at Paris, 15-17 November. (program was circulated with November minutes) **Action:** Chris Schmallius to distribute the report and key science questions formulated at the workshop. She also reported on discussions with the GTOS Chair, Ricardo Valentini, regarding the process of updating the Biomass ECV document and the role of the GOFC-GOLD WG and associated RNs. They agreed to organize a meeting at GTOS secretariat at FAO in mid May 2011. **Action:** Chris Schmallius to develop meeting details, including RN involvement.

- Land Use WG (under consideration): Chris Justice reported on plans for a meeting at IIASA supported by Steffen Fritz in June 2011 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). (refer to action item in RN section above)

6. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GEO: Michael Brady reported on upcoming FCT events including an IPCC-GEOS 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: Michael Brady circulated the GTOS ECV Work Plan submitted to SBSTA at COP 16. **Action:** He will request clarification from John Latham on work plan implementation in 2011 and the role of GOFC-GOLD.

7. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 19 January 2011
- The 2011 telcon schedule was distributed and accepted for use.

8. List of Documents Circulated

- December update of event schedule 2010-2011
- GTOS ECV Work Plan submitted to SBSTA at COP 16
- 2011 telcon schedule
- New Landsat update paper from Mike Wulder, LC-IT

GOFC-GOLD Project Office