

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 16 February 2011

Participants: Tony Janetos, Michael Brady, Martin Herold, Johann Goldammer, Kathleen Landauer, Olga Krankina, Olivier Arino, Krishna Vadrevu, Curtis Woodcock

Highlights

- GOFC-GOLD recognizes 2001 Year of Forests
- Regional Networks fully engaged in 5th International Wildland Fire Conference
- Planning underway for 2011 GOFC-GOLD Fire implementation team meeting
- GOFC-GOLD well represented at GEO forest carbon tracking summits

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- The World Forest Observatory team plans to hold meetings at Washington from 31 March to 1 April, and at Geneva from 19-20 April 2011. GOFC-GOLD will be invited. Tony Janetos stated that the Executive Committee will attend. Note: Invitations were received and attendance has been confirmed.
- Information on the 2011 Year of Forests was circulated. It was agreed that all teams and groups should support the awareness building campaign by displaying the logo and highlighting the principles at events. **Action:** Project Office to distribute web address for logo and information (<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/>).

2. Regional Networks (RN)

- Olga Krankina reported that the proposal being developed for the KARIN Central Asia RN is now entering a second round of drafting. Kathleen Landauer reported on recent discussions with the NASA contracts office, which indicate that final approval of the new START proposal may take 3-6 months. The delayed approval will require pushing back the start date of the Latin America Data Initiative. Tony Janetos commented that the US budget approval for 2011 remains uncertain and that this may affect NASA. A team including MB, KL, TJ, GG and OK was created to decide on whether to submit a session proposal for the 2012 IGBP Planet Under Pressure conference at London. **Action:** Team to decide before proposal due date of 18 March.

3. Fire IT Update

- Johann Goldammer reported that preparations are well underway for the workshops and RN participation at the international fire conference to be held in May at South Africa. In addition to the conference the RNs will be involved in three events including i) pan RN meeting, ii) RN and Global Wildland Fire Network meeting, and iii) biomass fuel consumption workshop.
- Krishna Vadrevu reported that plans are on track for the next Fire IT meeting planned for October at JRC, Ispra, and that the IT members are being contacted regularly.
- Olivier Arino announced that a fire session will be included in ESA sponsored Advanced Training Course in Land Remote Sensing, 12-16 September 2011, Krakow, Poland (<http://earth.eo.esa.int/trainingcourses/LandTrainingCourse2011/index.php?page=86&type=s>). The Fire IT will be requested to complete the user questionnaire as part of the ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI).

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Martin Herold reported that the ESA request for proposal has been released and proposals are due on 9 March. **Action:** Michael Brady to prepare a letter of endorsement for new land cover project office. He also reported that an agenda has been prepared and circulated for the land cover validation workshop to be held in June at IIASA. Comments from the ExComm are welcome. Martin Herold also reported on the Sentinel II science working group activities. A workshop is planned at ESA-ESRIN, Frascati, from 22-24 March 2011 to discuss scientific priorities and potential Sentinel science products. Coordination between LDCM and Sentinel II will also be discussed.
- Olivier Arino reported that GlobCover 2009 was officially released on 21 December 2010. The IONA website (<http://ionial.esrin.esa.int/>) contains the zip file map and an updated Product Description and Validation Report. The 2009 product demonstrates the reproducibility of the 2005 GlobCover, including the use of automated processing. He also provided an update on the CCI and reported that the User Requirements Document and the Data Access Requirements Document of the Land_Cover_CCI project team are now publically available (<http://www.esa-landcover-cci.org/?q=node/98>). He clarified that the ESA CCI is enhancing the development of Essential Climate variable (ECV), but there is no formal link to the GTSO process of formalizing/standardizing ECVs with the UNFCCC systematic observation agenda.

5. Working Groups

- Land Use WG (under consideration): Krishna Vadrevu reported on behalf of Chris Justice that plans are in place for the IIASA/GOFC-GOLD workshop on Characterizing and Validating Global Agricultural Landcover, 13-15 June at Laxenburg The draft agenda can be found at (<http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/FOR/lc/>). **Action:** Comments from the ExComm are welcome.
- Biomass WG: **Action:** Chris Schnullius to provide update on workshop in May at GTOS, Rome.

6. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GEO: Martin Herold, Curtis Woodcock and Michael Brady reported on the results of the Forest Carbon Tracking (FCT) Summits for National Demonstrators and Science and Data, 7-10 February 2011 at FAO, Rome. GOFC-GOLD was well represented at the summits, including the OSFAC RN. Curtis Woodcock observed that the FCT is making impressive advances in coordinated data acquisition with multiple CEOS agencies, over the national demonstrator countries, and that there is now a better balance between use of optical and SAR EO for product development. Science issues addressed included: i) sensor interoperability - obtaining the same thematic results from different sensors; ii) sensor complementarity - obtaining additional thematic information through the use of two or more different sensors; iii) optimising information extraction from C-band SAR; and iv) applications and optimal use of X-band SAR. (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/68164/en/>) The Summits also provided the opportunity to continue discussions with colleagues from Google.org on collaborative issues including the global network of validation test sites. Michael Brady mentioned that Mette Løyche-Wilke, the FRA Coordinator (2005, 2010) at FAO is leaving the position. Ken MacDicken has been appointed as the FRA 2015

Coordinator and will enter on duty on 28 February 2011. **Action:** Michael Brady to draft letter of appreciation from GOFC-GOLD.

7. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 16 March 2011

8. List of Documents Circulated

- February update of event schedule 2010-2011
- GEO FCT science questions presentation
- 2011 Year of Forests announcement
- Call for session proposal for 2012 IGBP conference
- World Forest Observatory announcement for planning meeting

GOFC-GOLD Project Office