

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 16 March 2011**

Participants: Michael Brady, Martin Herold, Kathleen Landauer, Olga Krankina, Olivier Arino, Curtis Woodcock, Garik Gutman

### **Highlights**

- GOFC-GOLD considering new working group for global Landsat analysis
- Regional Networks to participate in 5th International Wildland Fire Conference
- Climate user requirements document for land cover now available
- UNFCCC recognizes important GTOS work on terrestrial essential climate variables

### **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 has been invited and Tony Janetos and Martin Herold will attend each of the meetings, respectively. **Action:** Michael Brady to prepare a GOFC-GOLD overview presentation.
- John Townshend submitted a concept note for an ad hoc Working Group of practitioners who are trying to carry out global or very large regional scale (say the tropics) analyses of Landsat data with particular reference to land cover and land cover change detection. Among the multitude of issues are the following: i) ensuring consistent meta-data; ii) surface reflectance product generation; iii) automated analyses; iv) sharing of data for training and error estimates; and v) exchange of preliminary products. The ExComm viewed the proposal favourably. **Action:** Curtis Woodcock to review WG request and formulate a response.

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

- Olga Krankina reported that plans for the eastern Europe RN now includes two separate RNs for north- and south-eastern Europe. She also explained that the internal working group decided that GOFC-GOLD would not submit a proposal for a RN young scientist session at the IGBP conference in 2012. A separate forum will be identified once the new START project has commenced.
- 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. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer to follow up with NASA on approval timing. She also reported that START support for RNs is proceeding for the South Africa fire Conference in May.

#### **3. Fire IT Update**

- Anja Hoffmann sent a report on preparations for GOFC-GOLD Fire and UNISDR Wildland Regional Network Meeting Side Event at the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference ‘Wildfire 2011’ - South Africa, 10-13 May 2011. The GOFC-Wildfire event currently has 22 fully sponsored attendees. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer and Anja Hoffmann to establish administrative procedures for fund transfer and disbursement. Further Information and the current agenda for the GOFC side event can be found at <http://www.wildfire2011.org/programme.php?lnk=5>
- Krishna Vadrevu submitted a report to confirm the following IT activities are being planned:
  - i) GOFC-GOLD regional fire IT meeting during October (tentative dates, 18th and 19).
  - ii)

Fire-Climate Change Initiative (Fire-CCI) meeting during the October focussing on Burnt areas. Fire CCI is developed by a consortium of ten teams: University of Alcalá, INIA and GMV (Spain); GAF, DLR and Julich (Germany), IRD and LSCE-CEA (France), ISA (Portugal), and U. Leicester (UK). Fire-CCI is led by Emilio Chuvieco. He wants the above meeting to be attended by GOF-C-Fire RN researchers. Thus, we are still discussing the coordination part. While Fire-CCI focuses solely on burnt area analysis, the GOF-C-GOLD Fire IT has several themes highlighting the latest updates and is generally a two-day meeting. iii) The EarSEL symposium is planned for 20-21 October. **Action:** Krishna Vadrevu to come up with a plan so that participants may get a chance to attend all three meetings.

#### 4. Land Cover IT Update

- Martin Herold reported that he has been invited to give a talk about global land-cover and change detection at the upcoming ESA Sentinel for Science workshop (<http://www.sen4sci.org/>) where discussions on the scientific challenges and the potential of Sentinel 1, 2, and 3 measurements and products are being discussed. **Action:** Martin Herold to seek inputs from IT on what data and products, and scientific progress they expect or are interested in developing from the upcoming Sentinel satellites. He reported that the next GOF-C-GOLD CEOS WGCV global land cover validation workshop will be held on 16-17. June at IIASA, directly following the GEOSS-Agriculture Land Use workshop co-organized by Chris Justice. The climate user requirements document for the ESA land cover CCI project is now available and open for comments and suggestions: [http://www.esa-landcover-cci.org/sites/default/files/documents/public/Deliverables/LAND\\_COVER\\_CCI\\_URD\\_2.2.pdf](http://www.esa-landcover-cci.org/sites/default/files/documents/public/Deliverables/LAND_COVER_CCI_URD_2.2.pdf) Soon the project will invite international experts to participate in an assessment of best methods for land cover monitoring; where in particular the GOF-C-GOLD LC-IT will be invited to participate. Martin Herold also reported that a proposal for the Land Cover Project Office was submitted to ESA.
- Curtis Woodcock reported on the Landsat science team meeting held from 1-3 March at Mesa, Arizona ([http://landsat.usgs.gov/science\\_LST\\_mar1\\_3\\_2011.php](http://landsat.usgs.gov/science_LST_mar1_3_2011.php) ). Key issues from the meeting are that the LDCM is on target and follow on missions have been budgeted by the Interior Department, which clearly demonstrates the operational status of the missions.

#### 5. Working Groups

- Land Use WG (under consideration): Krishna Vadrevu reported on that plans are in place for the IIASA/GOF-C-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/>).
- Biomass WG: Christiane Schmullius submitted an update as follows: FSU is supporting her now with half a staff position to organize the biomass WG. Robert Eckardt, an MSc student, will start 1 April. As a first task, he will prepare a GOF-C-GOLD Biomass Newsletter and a Mailing List. He will also help to organize the planned biomass meeting at FAO jointly with Antonio Bombelli and Riccardo Valentini. **Action:** Chris Schmullius to contact GTOS to confirm the meeting date (whether we can still keep the envisaged date of mid-May is questionable). The biomass WG meeting should also involve the GOF-C-GOLD and FAO RNs, which will take time to organize. Chris Schmullius was invited to write the land/biomass chapter for the CEOS Response to the GEO Carbon Strategy. She will meet Diane Wickland at Washington on 28 March to discuss further details.

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

- GEO: Martin Herold reported that the first teleconference of the GFOI Task Force is on 31 March 2011. GOF-C-GOLD, through Martin Herold, is one of 12 GFOI task force members. Michael Brady reported that the presentations and minutes of the Forest Carbon Tracking summits (on data and science; and national demonstrators) are available at (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/68164/en/>). Michael Brady explained that the GEO Secretariat is organizing a GEO 2012-15 Work Plan Symposium in May and is seeking inputs. **Action:** Michael Brady will coordinate the GOF-C-GOLD response to the draft plan for submission to GTOS and GEOSEC.
- GTOS: John Latham sent a note to panel Chairs to share the letter received from the Adaptation Technology and Science Programme of UNFCCC. The letter contains very positive feedback regarding GTOS contribution to UNFCCC, especially related to the ECVs (Essential Climate Variables) process and the importance of research and systematic observations in the context of climate change, recognizing the value of the work GTOS has been doing in the last few years. A new programme of work is being developed with GTOS inputs. Olivier Arino summarized the TOPC XIII meeting from 10-11 March at Geneva. TOPC is a joint GCOS-GTOS panel and is the point of contact for the 14 terrestrial ECVs. The UN-ISO process was discussed as the mechanism to respond to the SBSTA request. TOPC is looking for support for long term CalVal of level 2 and support to their network. The meeting recognized that the terrestrial ECV documents should be open to a wider community review than in the past. The meeting raised many questions about the role of the joint panel and GCOS, GTOS contributions. Presentations from the meeting are available from: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos/index.php?name=TOPC-XIII>

## **7. Any other business**

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 20 April 2011

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

- March update of event schedule 2010-2011
- Letter to GTOS Programme Director from UNFCCC on Cancun Adaptation Framework
- Copy of request for new working group on Global Landsat Analysis

GOFC-GOLD Project Office