

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 19 May 2011

Participants: Anthony Janetos, Michael Brady, Martin Herold, Kathleen Landauer, Hassan Virji, Olga Krankina, Olivier Arino, Curtis Woodcock, Christiane Schmullius, Krishna Vadrevu, Lydia Prentiss, Erin Naydenov

Highlights

- START coordinating REDD analysis initiative with Regional Networks
- GOFC-GOLD considering supporting the East Asia RN on a forest mapping project
- USGS to support a training facility at Boston University to build capacity in REDD reporting
- 3rd Biomass WG meeting planned for October at FAO, Rome
- New GTOS strategy highlights increased focus on biodiversity

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- Chris Schmullius reported on the recent WFO meeting at Geneva. **Action:** Chris Schmullius will circulate the meeting minutes once they become available.
- Curtis Woodcock reported that a Working Group on Global Landsat Analysis (as proposed by John Townshend) would be technically oriented on the requirements of processing massive amounts of Landsat data. The WG would be unique as the Landsat Science Team and LC IT are focused on broader issues. The WG could be initiated at a LC IT meeting in fall 2011. **Action:** Michael Brady to draft a response email to John Townshend and circulate to Tony Janetos, Curtis Woodcock and Martin Herold.
- Michael Brady announced that on 1 June 2011 he will be on long term leave from the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) to take an opportunity at the World Bank - International Finance Corporation, as their Senior Forestry Specialist for the East Asia and Pacific region. During this period Michael will not be actively involved with the GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee and Project Office. Erin Naydenov will continue to administer the Project Office. **Action:** Michael Brady to arrange a call between Tony Janetos and the responsible Director General at the CFS, to discuss continued support for the Project Office from CFS and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). As Michael's new work includes forest MRV issues in Southeast Asia, where possible he will continue to support the SEARRIN network.

2. Regional Networks (RN)

- The GOFC-GOLD Fire and UNISDAR Wildland Regional Network side event at the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference was successful, and resulted in a list of GOFC-GOLD Fire recommendations. **Action:** Project Office to circulate the conclusions and recommendations.
- Olga Krankina reported that CAIRN is developing a proposal which, if successful, will enable nine regional institutions to act as data and service providers. Olga will present regional network activities at the upcoming agricultural monitoring workshop at Laxenburg.
- Kathleen Landauer and Hassan Virji reported that the remainder of the previous NASA-START grant will be used to conduct a detailed analysis of GOFC-GOLD and REDD, with a focus on regional activities. The result will be a synthesis and assessment document to inform the 2011 COP. **Action:** Hassan Virji to circulate details of the REDD analysis

initiative to the ExComm. The ExComm was invited to make suggestions to renew the Data Initiative concept, where RN participants receive training at EDC, then create an advanced institute setting to develop value added products. **Action:** GOF-C-GOLD is requested to begin planning for a young scientist event to be held during the current NASA-START grant.

- Lydia Prentiss reported on the preparations for the upcoming NASA LCLUC meeting. The schedule has shifted somewhat to allow the training session to be held following the meeting. The meeting will take place in early November 2011 at Hanoi, Vietnam. Currently, regional participants and additional funding is being sought. Past participants of the Data Initiative should be involved in the meeting and training session. FAO and GTOS could be approached to support regional network participation in the meeting.
- Michael Brady reviewed a proposal, under the Asia Pacific Forestry Network, submitted by the developing East Asia Regional Network, which was accepted. The RN would like to include GOF-C-GOLD for calibration and validation related to forest mapping. **Action:** Curtis Woodcock and Michael Brady to determine if GOF-C-GOLD is able to contribute to the project. **Action:** Michael Brady to send the request from the Chinese Academy of Forestry to Curtis and arrange a follow up discussion.

3. Fire IT Update

- Krishna Vadrevu updated the telcon on the preparations for the Fire IT meeting. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the EARSel conference at Ispra, Italy in October. The Fire IT Project Office will be contacting START shortly for meeting support.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Martin Herold reported on the upcoming GOF-C-GOLD CEOS WGCV global land cover validation workshop at IIASA. Meeting participants will consist of 35+ experts. The FAO will participate, and present the FRA validation. GOF-C-GOLD is expected to have a strong role in coordinating international validation activities. The next Land Cover IT meeting is being planned for the fall 2011. The meeting will either be held at Wageningen or Boston.
- ESA is expected to determine the outcome of the LC IT Project Office proposal by early July. ESA will have a Sentinel II preparatory symposium 23-27 April 2012 at Frascati. The symposium will include dedicated sessions on cartography, agriculture, forestry and land cover. ESA will have a two side events at the COP, to showcase their Climate Change Initiative and their Africa (Congo and REDD) collaboration. Olivier Arino reported that the CultureMERIS product operation is now stable and produced every week within 48 Hours. The Land Cover Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Progress Meeting 4 was successfully held at LSCE Paris, 10-11 May, the Product Specification Document version 1.2 can now be widely distributed. The ESA CCI has a round robin, in which access to various data is open. **Action:** Martin Herold to send the LC IT an email to announce the round robin. Fire related data will also become available through a round robin.

5. Working Groups

- REDD WG: Curtis Woodcock reported that the USGS through silvi-carbon will support a post doc to create a training facility at Boston University to build capacity in REDD reporting. Efforts will focus on remote sensing and GIS. Training workshops at Boston University could be held for Data Initiative participants following sessions at EDC. Martin Herold commented that the training sessions could also help to further develop the

Sourcebook. Sourcebook development is driven by policy development, country needs and acquired regional expertise. There are many requests for the Sourcebook to be presented in the regions, which is generally dedicated to a WG member from that region. The next REDD Sourcebook meeting will likely be held adjacent to the LC IT meeting in the fall. The Sourcebook meeting should focus on getting feedback from GOFC-GOLD Regional Networks.

- Biomass WG: Chris Schmallius reported that the Biomass WG website has been drafted. **Action:** Project Office to circulate draft web content to the ExComm for feedback. There will be a GEO Carbon workshop at FAO in October, which is open to the Carbon community. The Biomass WG will add their meeting on to the workshop, 26-27 October. Regional Networks will be invited to participate. **Action:** Chris Schmallius to submit a proposal for meeting support to START and the Project Office. Curtis Woodcock reported that NASA is developing a Carbon Monitoring System, which includes biomass mapping. Curtis suggested that NASA participate on the Biomass WG. Diane Wickland could be the point of contact at NASA.

6. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GEO has held several teleconferences and a meeting related to the Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI). Martin Herold participated in the meeting at the GEO Secretariat to start developing an implementation plan for the GFOI. Gary Richards is the lead. The focus is still too broad, whereas it should be driven by need. An updated draft of the GFOI implementation plan may be submitted to the GEO Executive Committee by late June. **Action:** Martin Herold to continue to send updated task information to the Project Office. GEO held a work plan symposium to gather input for the 2012-15 work plan. The draft plan was circulated to the ExComm. The core tasks that GOFC-GOLD is involved with remain in the plan however may have changed headings. Comments on the GEO work plan are being coordinated by Antonio Bombelli at GTOS.
- The revised GTOS strategy (April 2011) was circulated to the ExComm. GOFC-GOLD is well represented in the strategy. The strategy highlights an increased focus on biodiversity for GTOS, which links to the role of GTOS in the biodiversity convention. GTOS may ask GOFC-GOLD to comment on how we are addressing biodiversity. Biodiversity could be discussed further at the next LC IT or strategy meeting. Concerns were expressed regarding GOFC-GOLD's role in biodiversity. **Action:** GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee to discuss these issues with the GTOS Secretariat.

7. Any other business

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 16 June 2011

8. List of Documents Circulated

- May 2011 update of event schedule
- GEO 2012-15 Work Plan
- GTOS Strategy 2011
- Asia Pacific Forest proposal

GOFC-GOLD Project Office