

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 15 June 2011

Participants: Anthony Janetos, Martin Herold, Kathleen Landauer, Olga Krankina, Curtis Woodcock, Chris Justice, Johann Goldammer, Garik Gutman, Krishna Vadrevu, Erin Naydenov

Highlights

- LCLUC science team meeting and SE Europe workshop in Turkey being considered
- START/GOFC-GOLD develop support proposal template
- GOFC-GOLD/UNISDR Wildland Regional Network develop fire recommendations
- ESA invites three ExComm members to join Sentinel 2 Science Team
- GOFC-GOLD considers linking cropland mapping efforts to GEO agriculture task

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- Anthony Janetos is waiting for a response from the Sloan Foundation related to the World Forest Observatory. There is interest in working on a serious validation study rather than producing another land cover change product.
- Erin Naydenov reported that the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) will discuss renewing the Project Office with the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) in early June. Anthony Janetos will discuss the future of the GOFC-GOLD Project Office with CFS Directors later in June.

2. Regional Networks (RN)

- Garik Gutman reported that a LCLUC Science Team meeting hosted by the Technical University at Istanbul is being considered. The meeting would be held in conjunction with a GOFC-GOLD workshop for south-east Europe (Bulgaria, Romania, etc.). This effort would help to establish a network, encompassing the Danube watershed and Black Sea region. The planning will be led from the Goddard Institute. The plans for the NASA LCLUC/GOFC-GOLD meeting at Vietnam in early November are progressing. Meeting information is posted at: <http://lcluc.umd.edu/meetings.php?mid=21>. SEARRIN will be included in this meeting to follow up on the previous meetings in 2009 at Thailand. Hassan Virji sits on the US/Vietnam bilateral working group and offered his assistance as appropriate. Olga Krankina reported that the Central Asian RN has submitted a proposal to the LCLUC program.
- There will be a Computational Information Technologies for Environmental Sciences (CITES-2011) International Conference held in early July at Tomsk, Siberia. Programme details are posted at: <http://www.scert.ru/en/conferences/cites2011/program/>.
- Kathleen Landauer reviewed a proposed support request template that START and the Project Office would use to gather consistent information on where GOFC-GOLD funds are being used. The information would be used for funding decisions and reporting purposes.

3. Fire IT Update

- Johann Goldammer summarized the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference at South Africa, in which roughly 700 people from 60 nations participated. Several Ministers from South Africa participated. At the conference, a joint side meeting was held between several GOFC-GOLD Regional Networks and Fire IT members and the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network. The side meeting presentations are available at: http://gofc-fire.umd.edu/Wildfire_RN_SA_2011/index.asp. The Global Fire Community is expanding as

more government fire management agencies, academic groups and industry are becoming involved. The Conference received a message from the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The conference connected with representatives at the UN (Geneva), who were attending the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The conference statement and the recommendations from the side meeting were distributed. The 6th International Wildland Fire Conference is planned for 2015 at Korea.

- The Fire IT meeting is being planned for October at Ispra, Italy. Krishna Vadrevu is drafting the agenda and participants list.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- The Land Cover IT representation from ESA is being rotated due to shifting responsibilities. **Action:** Project Office to send the appropriate letters. The next Land Cover IT meeting will likely be in Boston in late 2011. The meeting should focus on ECV requirements, and calibration and validation. Martin Herold noted that the climate monitoring community is the primary user community for ECV efforts and therefore should be the target. Both GlobCover 2005 and 2009 are available. The GlobCover 2005 map is recommended for use, as the 2009 map was an automatic repetition of 2005, and as such is the weaker product due to validation issues.
- The GEO Agricultural Monitoring task is inline with GOFD-GOLD objectives and has strong GOFD-GOLD involvement. The GOFD-GOLD-GEO agricultural monitoring meeting highlighted a need for GOFD-GOLD to take on more responsibility. Chris Justice reported that one outcome of the meeting is the need for an increased focus on land use, specifically agriculture. A link should be formally made between the GEO Agriculture task and the GOFD-GOLD task in cropland mapping as a subset of the global land cover product. The Global Land Cover Validation workshop, which follows the GOFD-GOLD-GEO agricultural monitoring meeting, will continue with detailed discussions on improving coordination for global land cover validation.
- ESA is planning a Sentinel 2 symposium in April 2012. Curtis Woodcock, Anthony Janetos and Martin Herold have been asked to participate in the Sentinel 2 Science Team. The symposium could link to the land cover continuity issue. A meeting of the proposed Global Landsat Analysis WG or the Landsat Science Team could be held following the symposium. GOFD-GOLD could request a spot on the symposium agenda to address land cover continuity issues. Curtis Woodcock suggested that the issue be first discussed at the proposed LC IT meeting at Boston, then report on progress at the Sentinel 2 Symposium in April.

5. Working Groups

- The REDD WG is waiting to update the REDD Sourcebook until the results of the SBSTA are available and the LC Project Office is settled.

6. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI) implementation plan is being developed.

7. Any other business

- The GOFD-GOLD Vice-Chair position has been vacant since 2009 and should be revisited. Traditionally the Vice-Chair has been a key position to move resources to the Regional Networks in order to implement GOFD-GOLD programme objectives. **Action:** ExComm members to suggest potential candidates to the project office.

- The next ExComm telcon is planned for 21 July 2011

8. List of Documents Circulated

- June 2011 update of event schedule
- 2011 Wildfire Conference Statement
- GOFC-GOLD Fire and UNISDR Wildland Regional Network Meeting Conclusions and Recommendations
- Biomass WG web content
- Proposal template for GOFC-GOLD / START support

GOFC-GOLD Project Office