

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 26 October 2011

Participants: Tony Janetos, Garik Gutman, Martin Herold, Kathleen Landauer, Chris Justice, Olga Krankina, Curtis Woodcock, Krishna Vadrevu, Chris Schmullius, Anja Hoffman, Erin Naydenov

Highlights

- SEARRIN to hold network meeting along side the LCLUC Science Team meeting
- Third Data Initiative session, including advanced training, planned for May 2012
- Fire IT considers article on new sensor requirements
- LC IT Project Office at Wageningen likely to open January 2012
- ESA to host GOFC-GOLD at COP-17 booth
- Biomass WG side event planned for IGARSS

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- Tony Janetos has sent a letter of support to Canadian Forest Service (CFS) Directors, for the continuation of support of the Secretariat by CFS and the Canadian Space Agency.

2. Regional Networks (RN)

- The Miombo Network has updated their proposal for a spring 2012 meeting. The proposal has been sent to the LC IT Co-Chairs for input. The proposed meeting date and budgets will likely be adjusted further. Martin Herold suggested that the network meeting be linked to the global land cover validation initiative, which may push back the meeting date. Martin Herold and Curtis Woodcock will work with Miombo on the meeting content.
- The upcoming LCLUC Science Team meeting at Hanoi will include a SEARRIN meeting. The focus of the meeting is to strengthen ties with the LC IT and rejuvenate network leadership. SEARRIN is also planning a network meeting focused on fire topics, which may include participants from the Global Wildland Fire Network.
- The third Data Initiative (GOFC-GOLD fellowship programme) session is being planned for May 2012. The structure of the session has expanded; participants will begin at EDC, and then travel to Boston University for advanced training. The advanced training will be focused on forest carbon tracking. The LC IT is considering working with SilviCarbon to determine session participants. There is a potential that working with SilviCarbon could bring additional resources to the initiative. The training should remain focused on the GOFC-GOLD Regional Networks. The lessons learned from the previous sessions and how the data has been used in the regions following the training should be used to improve, expand, and clarify the upcoming session. **Action:** Olga Krankina and Kathleen Landauer will work on gathering feedback from past participants. **Action:** Olga Krankina will discuss the session at the SEARRIN meeting and seek input.
- Under the new START grant there is a specific limit on the amount of funds that can be used to support meetings. GOFC-GOLD needs to work towards having multiple sources of funding. Chris Justice reported that currently, the meeting allocation in the budget is not adequate to meet the Regional Networks needs. The Executive Committee should: 1) look for flexibility in the budget to ensure that Regional meetings occur 2) be proactive in finding partners with matching funds, and 3) place increased emphasis on the local host.

Consideration should be given to reorganizing the budget so that the Regional Network meetings are prioritized ahead of the fellowship programme. Many Regional Networks are seeking additional sources of funding, others will need help. START funds provide an important base for leveraging additional support.

3. Fire IT Update

- The Fire IT meeting, held in conjunction with ESA's Climate Change Initiative (CCI) meeting, had 50 participants. GOF-C-GOLD provided support to 5-6 participants. Discussions focused on both short and long term goals. The Global Fire Danger Assessment has progressed and now has daily Global Fire Danger Maps. Several Fire IT members are involved in updating the CEOS documents, including the role of the IT in burned area mapping. The IT may do an article on new sensor requirements, led by Eckehard Lorenz. Emelio Chuvieco is developing burned area products using MERIS data. Ivan Cziszar is leading the updating of the ECV templates. The Fire IT will try to be more visible and proactive in international activities, which will increase the IT's influence in the CEOS climate structure. The IT is planning several upcoming teleconferences to ensure progress continues following the meeting. IT succession issues were also discussed, however the IT governance process should be clarified first. The presentations are posted at: http://gofc-fire.umd.edu/Stresa_meeting_Oct_2011/index.asp. The algorithm for ESA's Fire CCI project was reviewed successfully.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- The LC IT Project Officer position has been posted. The Project Office should be running at Wageningen in January. Two LC IT members (Schmullius, Souza) contributed to the Land Cover CCI round robin, and will present results early November. **Action:** Martin Herold will follow up with Curtis Woodcock on the timing of the next LC IT planning meeting, which is being considered for December at Boston or January at Wageningen.
- There is the possibility of a GOF-C-GOLD or Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM) side meeting at ESA's Sentinel-2 preparatory workshop on 23-27 April. ESA is also planning to host a user consultation side session on Sentinel-2 for Agriculture. The call for abstracts is open until December.
- ESA will have a booth at the UNFCCC COP-17 in Durban, 28 November to 9 December, and will host GOF-C-GOLD. ESA has been able to host GOF-C-GOLD at the past 6 COP sessions. Martin Herold, Olivier Arino, and Frank Martin Seifert will attend. The REDD Sourcebook will be highlighted, and there is the potential for a side event and/or a presentation.
- ATSR World Fire Atlas reprocessing is complete and opened to the public on October 7th. ESA's CultureMERIS was fully opened to the public on September 21st.
- Progress has been made on the Global Land Cover Validation (GLCV) exercise. This activity could be used to further engage the Regional Networks. The networks are increasingly technically active and could play a strong role in calibration/validation exercises. Additional support for the proposed Miombo workshop could be sought for GLCV activities. Effort should be made to find a European source of network support. The German science ministry has special programmes for Africa and Russia, however the process is complicated and

project based. The European Commission has a few programmes based on project proposals. University of Twente (ITC) Netherlands may be a potential source of support.

5. Working Groups

- The REDD WG is updating the Sourcebook, which will be available online. The next planning discussion will likely be held as a part of the next LC IT meeting.
- The Biomass WG will have a side session at the next IGARSS, 24-29 July at Vancouver.

6. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- GTOS should circulate their position at the upcoming GEO plenary at Istanbul, and should request input from the panels. The Fire IT would like to revisit the GCOS requirements for the ECV's. The accuracy requirements need to be improved with broader consultation. Chris Schmuilius will participate in the GEO plenary as a part the European Commission delegation and could present GOFC-GOLD's GEO activities. A summary of the Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI) task should be circulated to clarify what the activity will accomplish. GOFC-GOLD should seek to support the underlying science rather than coordinate the task.

7. Any other business

- The text telcon is planned for 23 November

8. List of Documents Circulated

- October 2011 update of event schedule

GOFC-GOLD Project Office