

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 23 November 2011**

Participants: Tony Janetos, Garik Gutman, Martin Herold, Kathleen Landauer, Chris Justice, Olga Krankina, Curtis Woodcock, Krishna Vadrevu, Olivier Arino, Hassan Virji, Erin Naydenov

### **Highlights**

- SEARRIN to link with SEA START
- Scope of START's GOFC-GOLD work plan to be adjusted
- Next Fire IT meeting potentially linked to Geostationary community
- LC IT meeting to be held mid January 2012 at Boston University
- JRC-SANSA and ESA to hold side event at COP 17

### **Details**

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

- The LCLUC Science Team meeting at Hanoi was successful. SEARRIN held a side meeting to determine how to move the network forward. Dave Skole, SEARRIN Champion, is re-engaged and is working to link the RN to SEA START. The RN is interested in participating in the Data Initiative, with several tentative candidates identified. A fire regional workshop in SEA was discussed and it was agreed that the Fire meeting should be merged with LC topics under the SEA START RC. **Action:** Project Office and START to add workshop to funding request list.
- The SEERIN proposal to NATO for a workshop was not successful. The RN is planning to submit the proposal to START for support.
- The Miombo Network proposal has been updated. A decision on the workshop support should be made shortly.
- The dates for the Data Initiative and corresponding Advanced Training will be 30 April to 25 May 2012. The plan is for the participants to begin at EROS, and then continue training at Boston University. There is a concern that the Advanced Training is too focused on forest carbon tracking, which is not consistent with what NASA intended to support through the proposal. START reported that due to these concerns the activity has been put on hold. Some Executive Committee members were concerned that the funding between the Data Initiative and other workshops is unbalanced. Funds could be reallocated from the Data Initiative to other GOFC-GOLD workshops, such as the upcoming Volga and Argentina workshops. It was clarified that the focus of the Advanced Training is on land cover change, with forest carbon included as one of several applications. Most GOFC-GOLD workshops include a training component, so workshops also need to be well funded to ensure that the training can be conducted. **Action:** START to circulate additional information related to the data initiative and advanced training. START clarified that the Data Initiative is intensive hands on training with follow-on activities, which is fundamentally different than the type of training that is done at workshops and should given more consideration. If the entire advanced institute training portion of the budget is to be reallocated then START will formally request a change in the scope from its board as it is a strategic decision on whether or not the reallocation is sufficient for GOFC-GOLD purposes. START suggested that the proposal and associated materials be reviewed as the details of the data initiative are included. The ExComm needs to ensure that the Data Initiative is strongly linked to the RNs. **Action:** START to circulate the original work plan and the proposal for the change in scope,

including how the budget could potentially be reallocated. **Action:** ExComm to provide input to START on proposed changes in the scope and budget. **Action:** Garik Gutman to provide START with a detailed list of upcoming workshops which require funding.

## 2. Fire IT Update

- The Fire IT meeting at Stresa, held in conjunction with ESA’s Fire CCI workshop, was successful. The workshop presentations are available at: [http://gofc-fire.umd.edu/Stresa\\_meeting\\_Oct\\_2011/index.asp](http://gofc-fire.umd.edu/Stresa_meeting_Oct_2011/index.asp). The next Fire IT meeting will potentially be held in conjunction with the geostationary community, with an increased focus on geostationary aspects. The meeting will likely be held in the USA late 2012, or early 2013. Fire IT members are focusing on updating fire disturbance templates in CEOS and GTOS documents. The documents include several action items such as; active fires, burned areas, validation protocols, data portals, and etc.

## 3. Land Cover IT Update

- The LC IT is planning to hold a meeting in January 2012 at Boston University. The meeting will be focused on the global land cover validation activity, initiating the global moderate resolution processing working group, and developing guidance/recommendations on the specifications for the land cover ECV. ESA has developed some ECV specifications that are available on the internet. Suggestions for meeting invitees should be sent to Curtis Woodcock. Representatives will be invited from EROS Data Center, Geographic Information Science Center of Excellence, Chinese global land cover initiative, ESA’s sentinel program, JRC, and the University of Maryland. A presentation could be made on the current VIIRS data. Olga Krankina will participate as the RN representative.
- There has been progress on the global validation activity. Digital Globe has been donating imagery for the sample validation sites. The USGS has adopted the GOF-C-GOLD land cover validation strategy for their global validation work. The USGS has also begun receiving high resolution imagery, from the US National Geospatial Agency, for South America. Two papers have been written, one on the sample design and one on the analysis of the sample design, which have been accepted for publication. The response design and the analysis design are issues to be discussed at the LC IT meeting.
- There will be a 1-2 day Land Cover IT side meeting at the upcoming Sentinel II preparatory symposium, 23-27 April 2012. This meeting will act as a follow up to the Boston meeting.
- The GOF-C-GOLD Land Cover Project Office is being arranged and will likely be open January 2012, once the Project Officer is in place.
- GOF-C-GOLD will be hosted by ESA at their booth at the COP 17 at Durban, 28 November to 9 December. The updated version of the REDD Sourcebook will be presented. There is the possibility of a GEO FCT task side meeting at the COP. JRC-SANSA and ESA are organizing a side event 30 November at the EU pavilion. ESA will participate in two REDD side event organized by Congo and Gabron through their GMES Service Element Forest Monitoring. FAO and JRC will present the results of the global remote sensing survey. Olivier Arino and Martin Herold will participate.
- The Tiger Workshop 2012 will be held 12-13 December at Muldersdrift, South Africa. More than 100 participants have registered.

**4. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters**

- The GEO GFOI was accepted with a few constraints. Australia and Norway are contributing resources to further develop the initiative. Currently the focus is on developing a detailed implementation plan and coordination. GOFC-GOLD has been invited to help write the guidance documents.

**5. Any other business**

- The text telcon is planned for 21 December

**6. List of Documents Circulated**

- November 2011 update of event schedule

GOFC-GOLD Project Office