

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 21 December 2011

Participants: Tony Janetos, Garik Gutman, Anja Hoffmann, Olga Krankina, Johann Goldammer, Hassan Virji, Chris Justice, Curtis Woodcock, Krishna Vadrevu, Erin Naydenov

Highlights

- Task team to review support requests and make budget allocation recommendations
- START to request a change in scope of the GOFC-GOLD grant from NASA
- SEARRIN likely to merge fire and land cover themes
- Land Cover IT plans meeting at the Sentinel 2 preparatory symposium

Details

1. Remarks from the Chair

- **Action:** Tony Janetos will follow up with Canadian Forest Service management on the status of the Project Office.

2. Regional Networks (RN)

- Olga Krankina and Hassan Virji reviewed the spreadsheet for workshop support, which was circulated for Executive Committee input. Chris Justice noted that the list of proposed GOFC-GOLD supported workshops include a few events that may not be strongly integrated to the Implementation Teams. Specifically, the IT's may not be aware of the Baikal and SEERIN workshops, and efforts should be made to better link these activities to GOFC-GOLD program. Martin Herold is reviewing the SEERIN workshop proposal. The Baikal workshop is a capacity building activity for young scientists. There needs to be a clear process for reviewing funding requests, ensuring that activities being supported are linked to the IT's, and making allocation decisions. Oversight of the workshop support was traditionally a role that the Executive Director played, which is now vacant. A task team could be set up to review proposals as they are received to ensure that there are strong links to the IT's. The task team could also be responsible for making allocation recommendations to the Executive Committee for approval. The Executive Committee could discuss the recommendations and ask questions during the monthly teleconferences. The Executive Committee considered the process for support decisions, and decided to look at the entire fiscal year in four quarters (with flexibility) including requests already received. **Action:** Erin Naydenov will organize a task team to review the proposals and the overall budget allocations. **Action:** Task team to review current proposals and overall budget and report back to the Executive Committee during the January teleconference. Erin Naydenov noted that the current fiscal limitations and increased pressure on the NASA-START grant are due to the loss of the Project Office funding and past contributions by the Vice-Chair, which is now vacant. Chris Justice highlighted the need for GOFC-GOLD members to be proactive in looking for opportunities for workshop support (Europe, China). The Executive Committee noted that support for workshops and regional networks (through NASA- START grant) is catalytic; hence agreed that a desirable criteria must be the availability of matching funds/contributions. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer to revise the funding request form and guidelines document to include matching contributions criteria and circulate to the Executive Committee prior to the January teleconference.
- The Executive Committee approved the proposed reallocation of funds as proposed by START, and asked START to formally request a change in scope approval from NASA's

contracting authority. The request would highlight that due to the Executive Committee decision, START requests the reallocation of \$115K from Activities 1 and 2 (data training fellowships and advanced institutes) to Activity 3 (workshop support), with the proviso that subsequent decisions for specific allocation from Activity 3 for GOFC-GOLD workshops will be subject to confirmation by Executive Committee following review and recommendations by the proposal review task team.

- The 3rd Data Initiative session will go ahead as planned with the number of participants reduced from fifteen to nine. Olga Krankina requested help in identifying some of the participants for the session as a few of the participants have had to pull out. There are six spaces available for regional participation. SEARRIN/Miombo members could be invited to participate to continue efforts to re-engage those regions in GOFC-GOLD. **Action:** Olga Krankina to provide a set of participant criteria/qualifications for the Executive Committee.

3. Fire IT Update

- The Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN) is going to intensify their work in the South East Asia region. The two fire regional networks (SEARRIN, ASEAN), the GOFC-GOLD Fire IT, GWFN and the regional fire network of the UN ISDR global network will work together. It is likely that the fire and land cover themes will be merged together in SEARRIN. SEARRIN will be now coordinated by Hartanto Sanjaya (Indonesia).
- Johann Goldammer reported that he and the Russian federal forestry agency are discussing the possibility of holding a conference on user requirements of remote sensing of forest fires in the boreal zone. The conference would be focused on the Eurasian region (central Asia, Russia, and Mongolia), likely held at Novosibirsk late 2012.
- There will be a meeting of the GWFN and the Global Wildland Fire Advisory Group at Freiberg during the last week in June 2012. Fire IT members will be invited. This will be the first preparatory meeting for the next the 6th Wildfire Conference, which is planned for 2015 at Korea.
- The Regional Network section of the Fire IT website is being updated. Any material to be added to the website should be sent to Krishna Vadrevu.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Curtis Woodcock reported that the agenda for the Boston LC IT meeting in January 2012 is being developed. Topics to include: specifications for the land cover ECV, initiation of the global moderate resolution (eg. Landsat) processing working group, future REDD activities, and the global land cover validation activity. The GEO request that GOFC-GOLD take a leadership role in the Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI) will also be discussed at the meeting. Although the GEO GFOI request seems like an appropriate role for GOFC-GOLD, it is unclear what a leadership role would entail. It would help to gain an independent perspective on the status of GFOI and what GOFC-GOLD would be required to do. Tony Janetos has contacted Peter Colohan, Office of Science and Technology Policy, for background information. **Action:** Curtis Woodcock to contact Giovanni Rum for more information on GFOI.
- The next LC IT meeting is being planned in conjunction with the Sentinel 2 symposium in April at Frascati.

5. Any other business

- The text telcon is planned for 25 January

6. List of Documents Circulated

- December 2011 update of event schedule
- GOFC-GOLD inputs to the GTOS Biennial report
- Proposed revision of START-NASA budget for GOFC-GOLD

GOFC-GOLD Project Office