

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 23 February 2012

Participants: Tony Janetos, Garik Gutman, Martin Herold, Brice Mora, Olga Krankina, Curtis Woodcock, Skip Kauffman, Hassan Virji, Chris Schmallius, Johann Goldammer, Erin Naydenov

Highlights

- Participants of the 3rd Data Initiative identified
- RN's (Fire) to be represented at fire management workshop at Brazil
- LC IT Project Office re-opened at Wageningen
- Potential for GlobBiomass initiative

Details

1. Regional Networks (RN)

- Olga Krankina reported that nine Data Initiative participants have been identified. Olga Krankina will request that Tom Loveland and Curtis Woodcock review the participants CV's to ensure that their background is appropriate. START will begin coordinating the logistics and documentation for travel with participants. The USGS and Boston University will make the local arrangements required for the training sessions. **Action:** Project Office to arrange a teleconference to finalize the participants list. Hassan Virji suggested that efforts to identify participants for the 4th Data Initiative session begin soon. Tony Janetos suggested that participants of previous Data Initiative sessions be contacted to find out what has changed as a result of their training. As a part START's project evaluation and monitoring practices a short survey can be created with Olga Krankina's input and distributed to past participants.
- START's annual progress report on the GOFC-GOLD grant has been submitted to NASA. Plans are progressing for the April 2012 SEERIN workshop at Sofia, where Brice Mora (LC IT Project Officer) will participate. The June 2012 Volga workshop plans are also progressing well. Skip Kauffman (START) reported that he is working on developing the workshop budgets.

2. Fire IT Update

- Johann Goldammer reported on a number of potential outreach activities. Anja Hoffman has been invited to participate and represent African Fire Regional Network interests at a Fire Management workshop in Brazil mid-March. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) approached the GFMC to look at land use change (fuels) related to the UN-SPIDER activity. Olga Krankina and Johann Goldammer will discuss potential shifts in the structure of the RNs in Central Asia. The UN-SPIDER activity and RN structure should be discussed at the Volga workshop, where fire is one of the main topics.

3. Land Cover IT Update

- The Land Cover Project Office is open and Brice Mora was introduced as the Land Cover Project Officer. The LC IT website is being updated and moved to the University of Wageningen. The LC IT newsletters will begin circulation again shortly. A database is being developed for reference validation data. The LC IT side meeting at the Sentinel 2 preparatory symposium will include a discussion on future plans for the REDD Sourcebook.
- Curtis Woodcock reported on the GEO FCT task meeting at Tanzania. Participants discussed the role/objectives of the GFOI, which is becoming hard to distinguish from the FCT task.

The GEO FCT and GFOI need to develop a set of guidance documents for information to provide to developing countries conducting REDD style reporting. The guidance documents should be completed by May 2012. Currently there is no need for GOFC-GOLD to take a major role in the task. The GEO FCT meeting was held in Tanzania due in part to Norway's investment to proactively prepare for REDD style reporting. The UN REDD program presented and discussed their training at the meeting. UN REDD is very active and well funded, and is placing individuals in countries where they have REDD reporting readiness programs emerging. The World Bank participated and presented their Forest Carbon Partnership (FCPF) Program, which is well funded for REDD monitoring and reporting activities. The FCPF is beginning to run training workshops, and support training in 10-15 countries through grants. **Action:** Hassan Virji will provide a synthesis document, by Cheikh Mbow and David Skole, to Curtis Woodcock for the workshop participants.

- The potential for further requests to GOFC-GOLD (START) for LCLUC meetings was discussed. Garik Gutman reported that at present the need for additional support was unlikely. Currently there are two LCLUC meetings (India and Czech Republic) on the list of potential GOFC-GOLD sponsored meetings; however no proposals have been submitted.

4. Working Groups:

- Chris Schmullius reported that ESA has requested that she conduct a user consultation meeting focused on forest biomass, which would include various stakeholders (users, scientists, NGO's, ministries, industry). This meeting may be followed by an ESA data user element project (eg. GlobBiomass), which could start early 2013. Countries that are ESA member states (Europe and Canada) may be eligible for funding. The dates for the user consultation meeting are being determined, and will hopefully be merged with a Land Cover CCI meeting and a LC IT meeting. The user consultation meeting would focus on RADAR, LIDAR, Optical, and Inventory data. **Action:** Chris Schmullius to submit a proposal to START to support regional participation. There needs to be a way to include a field sampling component in this initiative, which may require additional support from another sponsor. A steering committee may be set up to help plan the user consultation meeting. SilviCarbon could be approached as they support developing countries build capacity in conducting national forest inventories (biomass estimation). Eric Nasar (Norway) could be approached related to his work linking remote sensing to national forest inventories to estimate biomass. **Action:** Chris Schmullius to send a brief backgrounder to Tony Janetos on the user consultation meeting to help identify key invitees.

5. Any other business

- The text telcon is planned for 22 March

6. List of Documents Circulated

- February 2012 update of event schedule
- Draft Participants list for the 3rd Data Initiative Session

GOFC-GOLD Project Office