

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 24 May 2012

Participants: Tony Janetos, Garik Gutman, Olivier Arino, Brice Mora, Olga Krankina, Curtis Woodcock, Skip Kauffman, Krishna Vadrevu, Erin Naydenov

Highlights

- Proposal review/budget allocation task team to discuss several new proposals
- 3rd Data Initiative session with Advanced Training to lead to regional follow on activities
- LC IT members are involved in developing GEO FCT/GFOI guidance documents
- GOFC-GOLD IT symposium being planned for April 2013 at Wageningen
- Sentinel 2 preparatory symposium acknowledged for International collaboration

Details

1. Remarks from the chair

- Tony Janetos reported that there has not been any response from CFS management regarding the status of their support for the Secretariat. Erin Naydenov reported that the CSA did not approve the proposal for the Secretariat, and that the CFS may not continue their institutional support, although this decision has not been formalized. Tony Janetos recommended that the Executive Committee begin thinking about a transition plan. European partners (ESA, UW) are already being generous by supporting the LC IT Project Office, and the Fire IT Project Office is being supported by US partners (NASA, UMD). Any ideas or suggestions should be sent to Tony Janetos to begin developing a transition plan.

2. Regional Networks (RN)

- Olga Krankina reported on the 1-day SEERIN workshop held in Sofia. The workshop was well attended and an effective format for planning future network activities. Brice Mora represented the LC IT. The Trans-Atlantic training session on LCLUC-related topics planned for mid-June 2013 at Prague, could be expanded to include a 2nd SEERIN workshop or other GOFC-GOLD initiative. Currently the week of June 10th is being considered for the Land Classification workshop and Trans-Atlantic Training. The workshop could continue into the following week, 17-18 June, to include a SEERIN meeting.
- The plans for the Volga workshop, which will take place 17–22 June at Yoshkar-Ola, Russia, are on track. The workshop may lead to the development of a network in that are. The dates for the workshop on Baikal have been shifted to 24 June–2 July, allowing several participants to attend both the Volga and Baikal workshops.
- Skip Kauffman reported that START has received the proposal for the LCLUC ST meeting to be held in India, October 2012. Olga Krankina suggested that the proposal be circulated to the proposal review/budget allocation task team, along with any other recently received proposals. **Action:** Skip Kauffman to distribute the proposal(s) to the other task team members (Krishna Vadrevu, Olga Krankina, Brice Mora, and Erin Naydenov). **Action:** Task team to hold a teleconference to review proposals and make budget allocation recommendation to the Executive Committee. The task team anticipates that there will be several proposals to review including; LCLUC ST meeting (India), workshop on the Impacts of GHG's (Asian region), LC IT Symposium (Wageningen), and possibly the TAT on LCLUC (Prague). Skip Kauffman cautioned that the decision made during the May

teleconference allowing START to adjust the budget to go slightly above/below allocation decisions needs to be kept in check and large discrepancies may not be approved.

- The Data Initiative training at EDC was successful, and participants are currently taking advanced training at Boston University. Olga Krankina suggested that past participants and those involved in planning the training get together to ensure that best practices are retained and used for future sessions. Curtis Woodcock reported that participants are providing interesting feedback about the advanced training. The training is recognized as an extraordinary opportunity by the participants as well as those conducting the training. Participants are continuing to download data from EDC while at Boston, as the advanced training has expanded their awareness of the potential use of the data. The participants also have the opportunity to conduct follow up activities with the data in their regions and are developing proposals while at Boston University. The proposals range from holding regional workshops to distribute data throughout their network to proposals to fund the use of data to further specific research initiatives. **Action:** Skip Kauffman, Olga Krankina, and Curtis Woodcock to discuss the proposals and report back to the ExComm.

3. Fire IT Update

- Krishna Vadrevu reported that Fire IT website is being updated and transferred to another server to allow for improved document storage. The transfer and updates should be complete by early July. The Fire IT is working with colleagues at NIES, Japan, to organize a workshop on “Impacts of GHG's and Aerosols in the Asian region”, which will include discussions on Southeast Asian fire emissions. The workshop is being targeted for February 2013 and the expenses will be shared 50/50 between GOF-C-GOLD and NIES. The proposal will be submitted to START shortly.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Curtis Woodcock reported on GEO FCT/GFOI; where there is push to produce guidance documents related to reporting on GHG's. A steering group has been formed in addition to the group that is writing the documents. The steering group is meeting at the World Bank on May 31st. In June there is a meeting planned in Norway to write the guidelines. Curtis Woodcock is unable to attend the steering group meeting but will likely participate in Norway along with Martin Herold. Several other LC IT members are involved. The goal is a book style document/manual on GHG reporting and how to monitor, including ground sampling, remote sensing and Carbon modelling. Miriam Baltuck, Australia, is organizing the documents development as will likely lead the steering group. A number of participants have been brought in to help develop the documents, including representatives from lead countries (Norway, Japan, Australia, and USA). The USGS has recently completed an assessment of terrestrial Carbon sequestration potentials, which is built on a combination of remote sensing and ecosystem modelling. The USGS is not deeply involved in the development of the guidance documents; however a USFS, FIA employee (Ron McRoberts) has been invited to help with the writing, which will bring in the field sampling perspective. The Fire IT offered to help with any required fire related content. **Action:** Krishna Vadrevu will send Fire content to Curtis Woodcock to review and present to the writing team at Norway. The process to bring several adhoc documents in to a complete document will be lengthy. GOF-C-GOLD will likely be requested to review the documents as they are completed.

- Brice Mora reported that the next LC IT symposium is being planned for 15 – 19 April 2013 at the University of Wageningen. Olga Krankina suggested that plans include the Regional Networks in the workshop agenda. The dates should be posted on the calendar so participants can begin planning, and the proposal to START should be submitted early so that regional participants can seek travel support and obtain visas as required. This workshop should be combined with the fire related topics, as fire is becoming increasingly hard to separate out from land cover issues. Olivier Arino noted that combining fire and land cover was recommended by participants of the Sentinel 2 preparatory symposium, thus the Wageningen workshop should work to combine both topics. Tony Janetos suggested that both ITs work together to develop the agenda. **Action:** Brice Mora will check that the University of Wageningen is able to host a combined symposium. Brice Mora plans to check the availability of USGS VHSR for CCI sites with Tom Loveland.
- Olivier Arino reported that the April 2012 S2 preparatory symposium was attended by 338 participants originating from all 5 continents. There were 72 oral presentations (12 keynote addresses and 60 thematic speeches) and 110 posters were presented. The presentations are available on the symposium website (www.s2symposium.org). The workshop resulted in 28 recommendations, which ESA will review and work to approve. At launch time, ESA will hold another Symposium. Tony Janetos, Martin Herold, and Curtis Woodcock were thanked for helping and participating in the workshop. Curtis Woodcock noted that ESA's collaboration has set the tone for the future of international collaboration. ESA declared the end of the mission for Envisat on 9 May 2012.

5. Working Group updates

- Biomass WG: Olivier Arino reported that Chris Schmillius will host a GlobBiomass User Consultation meeting 8 - 12 October 2012. The workshop will have presentation sessions and user requirements will be gathered from institutional and scientific users. The session will be focused on Radar. The timing conflict with a LCLUC meeting was noted. **Action:** Chris Schmillius will be contacted about potentially shifting the dates.
- REDD WG: Brice Mora reported that authors of the Sourcebook will be contacted shortly about completing an update. The Sourcebook is generally updated ahead of the COP, which may not be possible for Rio +20.

6. GTOS/G3OS/GEO matters

- ESA will be participating at the Rio +20 COP along with GEO and GEOSS activities. GTOS has not indicated their plans for the COP. The future of GTOS at FAO is uncertain. GOF-C-GOLD will need to consider the impacts if GTOS is dissolved or the Secretariat is transferred. GOF-C-GOLD would have to work to retain a voice in the broader community of observing systems; however the panel activities should not be impacted. **Action:** Tony Janetos to discuss the issue with Chris Justice.

7. Any other business

- A poll will be circulated to determine the date of the June telcon

8. List of Documents Circulated

- May 2012 update of event schedule