

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 20 June 2012

Participants: Tony Janetos, Brice Mora, Martin Herold, Curtis Woodcock, Chris Schnullius, Skip Kauffman, Krishna Vadrevu, Erin Naydenov

Highlights

- GOFC-GOLD explores future hosts of the Project Office
- Data Initiative follow-on proposals being assessed
- Joint CIFOR/GOFC-GOLD workshop on MRV to be held in September
- GOFC-GOLD STB session considered for LC IT Symposium
- ESA and MOST kick off Dragon 3

Details

1. Remarks from the chair

- Tony Janetos reported that CFS management confirmed that they will no longer be able to provide support to the GOFC-GOLD Secretariat. The timeline for the transition period has not been clearly defined. Tony Janetos plans to discuss the situation with NASA and CSA. Curtis Woodcock suggested that GOFC-GOLD contact Norway, which has been supportive of REDD related activities. At the Space Centre, Per Erik Skrovseth could be contacted. The Norway's Ministry of Forestry, which has a climate programme, could also be approached. Martin Herold suggested that Miriam Baltuck (Australia), who is coordinating the GEO GFOI, be contacted as well. **Action:** Tony Janetos to send a note to Miriam Baltuck and Per Erik Skrovseth.

2. Regional Networks (RN)

- Skip Kauffman reported that LCLUC ST meeting planned for India, 6-12 October may be delayed due to internal changes at the host organization. The meeting conflicted with the GlobBiomass user requirements workshop at Jena, so this conflict may resolved if the LCLUC meeting is rescheduled. The GlobBiomass date could not be shifted due to other scheduling conflicts. **Action:** Krishna Vadrevu will encourage the LCLUC meeting organizers to make decisions on the dates and location quickly, so that participants can make arrangements.
- The proposal review/budget allocation task team has a number of proposals to review, including the RedLaTIF workshop request. The RedLaTIF proposal has a short timeframe and there are already 6-7 meetings scheduled for this financial year. If possible the RedLaTIF meeting should be pushed back until next fiscal year. **Action:** Skip Kauffman will discuss the RedLaTIF proposal with Olga Krankina and Anja Hoffmann.
- Following the 3rd Data Initiative training, several proposals have been submitted to START for follow on initiatives. The proposals range from regional workshops to other activities related to regional data distribution and capacity building. The proposal from Miombo included a request for computer equipment and software. START is able to provide equipment if it is within the scope of the approved project, and would require a contract to ensure that supplies remain with the project. Proposals should highlight any travel expenses that GOFC-GOLD members use to participate in follow on activities as additional sources of support for the initiative, in order to strengthen the proposal. Curtis Woodcock and Tom

Loveland will review the proposals and make recommendations to START for budget allocations.

3. Fire IT Update

- No major updates. Plans are evolving for the next Fire IT workshop. The Fire IT is well linked to the planned RedLaTIF workshop.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Martin Herold reported that he is a member of the advisory group for the GFOI. The group, Chaired by Miriam Baltuck, is mainly advising on countries, FAO, World Bank, and others related to the development of the GFOI guidance documents. The GFOI is becoming very focused on meeting country needs. GOFC-GOLD is well connected to the GFOI, and any relevant material from the REDD Sourcebook will be used. The GFOI advisory group met recently at Washington, where the relationship between GFOI, IPCC and GOFC-GOLD was discussed. One idea discussed is that the IPCC's role is to provide the mandate and guidelines, GFOI's role is to provide operational guidance on the use of different tools, and a role for GOFC-GOLD is to regularly update the IPCC and GFOI on new technical and scientific developments. Curtis Woodcock will participate in the upcoming authors meeting in northern Norway. GOFC-GOLD will need to ensure that it is recognized for the work that is being contributed to the GFOI.
- Martin Herold reported on the REDD negotiations at the May 2012 SBSTA, where MRV and national forest monitoring was discussed. They want to have a position on details related to MRV mortality for REDD + and national forest monitoring systems by the next COP at Doha. Martin Herold has received resources from CIFOR to hold a joint workshop on approaches on MRV system development in Wageningen, 3-5 September 2012, which will inform the COP. An attempt will be made to hold a side event at the COP, perhaps jointly with ESA.
- Brice Mora reported on the plans for the GOFC-GOLD Symposium in April 2013. The Fire Team and Regional Networks will be included. **Action:** Tony Janetos to consider holding a GOFC-GOLD strategic/Science and Technical Board session at the symposium. The LC IT Project Office will submit a proposal to START shortly.
- A user survey is being created for the REDD Sourcebook, which will be used to provide guidelines for future updates. The consolidation work being done with Pierre DeFourney, Université catholique de Louvain. The validation sites are being taken from the GlobCover projects.
- Brice Mora and Martin Herold are involved in defining the GEO Land Cover tasks. China is also taking a lead role.

5. Working Group Updates

- Chris Schmullius reported that the logistical arrangements for the October 2012 GlobBiomass meeting in Jena have been made. Chris Schmullius and Frank-Martin Seifert are developing a draft agenda. Key presenters will then be invited, including participants from GOFC-GOLD, GFOI, and FCT. Diane Wickland plans to support the participation of several US scientists. Federal forestry agencies, FRA representatives and companies will also be invited to participate. The draft agenda and invitations will be circulated in July. Global projects launched by ESA need to be partnered with similar projects in the US. Two focus

areas are; 1. assess available methods and current and future satellite resources, and 2. develop synthesized programmes by merging optical and radar products. Validation of products is a key need of the user community (Industry). The radar community has completed a map of the northern hemisphere, which will be distributed at the IGARSS symposium at Munich, in July. There will be two biomass mapping sessions at IGARSS.

- The Dragon 2 and 3 symposium will be held in Beijing late June, which will mark the end of the Dragon 2 programme and kick off a 4 year Dragon 3 programme. The Dragon program is a cooperative effort between ESA and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). A forest change map of China, based on Radar data from the mid-1990's compared to 2010 (50m resolution) will be published. Chris Schmillius is coordinating the forest component of Dragon 3.

6. Any other business

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

7. List of Documents Circulated

- June 2012 update of event schedule

GOFC-GOLD Project Office