

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 4 October 2012

Participants: Tony Janetos, Han Dolman, Brice Mora, Martin Herold, Olga Krankina, Curtis Woodcock, Skip Kauffman, Johann Goldammer, Garik Gutman, Olivier Arino, Erin Naydenov

Highlights

- Fire IT website re-launched
- SEARRIN workshop a priority at upcoming GHG workshop
- SAFNet and Miombo planning workshops
- Follow-up workshop to the GlobBiomass conference being discussed

Details

1. GTOS/G3OS/GEO Matters

- Han Dolman (GCOS, TOPC) expressed some concern that there has been a history of poor support from the GTOS secretariat at FAO. The GTOS secretariat has become less active since the departure of Antonio Bombelli. Recently John Latham stepped down as the Executive Director. FAO may no longer be interested in supporting GTOS, so discussions are beginning about the potential to have other GTOS sponsors (UNESCO or UNEP) takeover. Johann Goldammer suggested that UNOOSA, or joint support be considered as well. **Action:** Tony Janetos will discuss the options with John Townshend for input. Han Dolman suggested that Carolyn Richter (WMO) be kept aware of what the panels are doing. **Action:** Executive Committee will draft a letter to FAO about GTOS once options for GTOS support are identified. One of the concerns that the panels have over GTOS is that GTOS is how the panels report up to GEO and to the SBSTA.

2. Regional Networks (RN)

- Skip Kauffman reported that START has received a number of proposals. Some information such as dates and costs should be updated on the event schedule. **Action:** Erin Naydenov to update the schedule and circulate along with the minutes.

3. Fire IT Update

- Krishna Vadrevu reported that the Fire IT is tentatively planning a meeting as part of the mid-April GOFC-GOLD symposium at Wageningen. The event would bring together the Fire IT and LC IT researchers. Due to the high-costs involved, a strong co-sponsorship might help to organize the meeting successfully. A synthesis of 3-4 regional meetings will be presented at the Symposium in order to reduce travel costs. Olga Krankina and Anja Hoffmann will present the inputs and feedback obtained from the upcoming south and south-east Asian workshops.
- As a part of outreach activities and increased information dissemination, the Fire IT has re-launched the GOFC-Fire-IT website: <http://gofc-fire.umd.edu/>.
- The NASA/START sponsored LCLUC ST and South Asia regional researchers meeting will be held 6-14 January 2013 at Calicut and Coimbatore, India. Researchers are expected from several south Asia countries including; Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and others. One priority is to build contacts within the region to sustain collaborative activities in the south Asia region.
- A cost-sharing proposal for the Impact of GHG's and Aerosols in the Asian region and SEARRIN workshops has been submitted to START. NIES (Japan) has tentatively agreed to pay 50% of the costs to organize the meeting at Tsukuba, Japan in which south-east Asia

country researchers - mainly SEARRIN network representatives from Thailand, Philippines, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, China, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, etc., will be invited. The workshop will aid in the process of strengthening the SEARRIN network and identifying new point of contact for the network.

- Anja Hoffmann reported that a proposal for a SAFNet meeting is being prepared for submission to START. The proposal will request support for participants from SADC countries. Additional financial support will be coming from GIZ (German International Cooperation) for the venue and conference package as well as some participants. The meeting will include topics of interest for CSIR potentially including; human impacts on fire in Africa, how much people can manipulate fire, and fire management policies. Anja Hoffmann is also working with Natasha Ribiero to finalize the Miombo network proposal.

4. Land Cover IT Update

- Martin Herold reported on the GFOI advisory group. The role of GOF-C-GOLD with the GFOI is getting clarified potentially as a scientific panel, where GOF-C-GOLD could review/develop R & D Strategy and guidance documents. GFOI is drafting material for the GEO Plenary. **Action:** Martin Herold will circulate GFOI material to the ExComm. Curtis Woodcock is continuing to participate in the writing team for the GFOI guidance documents. The authors met in Norway recently to develop the documents. Coordination under Mirium Baltuck is going well.
- Curtis Woodcock reported that FAO's FRA group may be interested in receiving assistance by having GOF-C-GOLD review their plans and helping to have remote sensing integrated. **Action:** Curtis Woodcock to follow up with Eric Lindquist.
- Brice More reported on the planning for the GOF-C-GOLD Symposium at the University of Wageningen. Planning is on track and a proposal has been submitted to START. The symposium is being planned to include sessions for REDD WG, Biomass WG, LC IT, Fire IT, regional networks, global land cover validation, and a GOF-C-GOLD science and technology board meeting.
- Olivier Arino reported that the ESA Land Cover CCI is on time and the first report of 2008 validation is available, with the same methodology as in GlobCover.

5. Working Group Updates

- Chris Schmillius reported that planning for the GlobBiomass Conference is progressing well. Olga Krankina is planning to participate in the conference pending travel support. Any comments for the conference participants from the GOF-C-GOLD Executive Committee can be presented as a part of the Biomass Working Group presentation that Chris Schmillius is giving.
- Plans for a follow-up workshop to the GlobBiomass conference is being discussed with Mat Hansen and Michael Schmidt. The workshop would be focussed on biomass validation, with strong international participation, and hopefully FAO-partnership. This workshop would need START-support and an updated Biomass-Workshop proposal will be submitted shortly.

6. Any other business

- Tony Janetos will circulate the November teleconference details.

7. List of Documents Circulated

- October 2012 update of event schedule

GOF-C-GOLD Project Office