

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 24 February, 2005

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Alan Belward, Ivan Csiszar, Martin Herold, Olga Krankina, Chris Schnullius, Garik Gutman, John Latham, David Skole, Johann Goldammer, Murugi Larsen

Highlights and Action Items

- The GCOS implementation plan (IP) was endorsed at the COP10 in December 2004. Subsequently, during the GEOSS6 meeting in Brussels, IP was embedded in the GEOSS IP as the climate component, and the GEOSS IP was endorsed. GOFC-GOLD now has mandate to act on key actions in IP.
- Garik Gutman sent 30 copies of the Land Change Science textbook to the GOFC Project Office for distribution to STB meeting participants.
- GOFC-GOLD to attend next GCOS steering committee meeting in September 2005. *New*
- Michael Brady and John Townshend to contact Chinese hosts in regards to letter of invitation and hotel information. *New*
- IT Chairs to communicate with John Townshend on materials needed for the STB meeting. *New*
- Olga Krankina to ask Excomm members for suggestions in resolving the conflicting meetings in June 2005 at St. Petersburg. *New*
- Chris Justice to prepare a template for Regional Network presentations at STB meeting. *New*
- John Townshend to further discuss with NASA opportunities to support Regional Networks (RNs) through science and data programs. *Ongoing*
- John Townshend to draft a GOFC-GOLD requirement statement in regards to the anticipated EO gap created by Landsat 7. *Ongoing*

Details

1. GTOS matters

- GTOS Steering Committee meeting update: John Latham circulated list of nominees selected to attend the meeting. No changes to dates, meeting still to be held on 12–13th April 2005. Also mentioned that a memo on Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) was issued and circulated by Lucilla Spini. A GTOS brief was prepared and presented by UNESCO at a recent UNCBD meeting at Bangkok.

2. GCOS matters

- Alan Belward stated that the GCOS implementation plan (IP) was endorsed at the COP10 in December 2004. During the GEOSS6 meeting in Brussels the GCOS IP was embedded in the GEOSS IP as the climate component. The GEOSS IP was endorsed. Paul Mason (GCOS Chair) stated that GCOS, GTOS and science panels need a mechanism to implement and provide feedback on success or lack of, at the COP meeting next December. GOFC_GOLD now has a mandate to act on key actions in IP. The link to the GEOSS editorial article in Nature mentioned during the meeting (http://www.nature.com/cgi-taf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v433/n7028/full/433789a_fs.html). Alan to report back in December on the progress of the GCOS IP. Chris Schnullius asked about the framework programme and the GEO call at the next meeting – Alan Belward will report back.
- John Townshend stated that GOFC_GOLD has a mandate and therefore not necessary to send a letter offering GOFC-GOLD's participation. GOFC_GOLD should participate in the next GCOS steering committee meeting. Alan Belward mentioned that the meeting has been postponed to September 2005, waiting for a new director to be appointed. Paul Mason remains the chair. John Townshend and John Latham will attend the GCOS steering committee meeting.

3. STB meeting

- Status of invitee response: Murugi Larsen reported that all GOFC-GOLD panel members and Regional Networks representatives have confirmed their participation. Only a few of the external board members have confirmed. Several panel members have been asked to assist to contact invitees who have not responded.
- Additional invitees; budget; travel logistics: Michael Brady stated that a new list with additional invitees has been sent out. He and Mengxue Li will finalize the Chinese invitee list. The logistics are in place. Concern was raised that a letter from China and hotel information should be sent to participants as soon as possible in order to obtain approval to travel and apply for visa. Action: Michael Brady and John Townshend to contact Mengxue Li to emphasize the importance of issuing the letter of invitation and hotel information as soon as possible. David Skole gave his approval for START funds budgeted for Land Cover IT activities to be used for the STB meeting.
- Review of agenda; strategy document: John Townshend stated that the agenda has been circulated. The general plan for the strategy meeting is to emphasize participation in break-out sessions of key issues. GCOS Implementation Plan to be included in these discussions. Participants agreed that the GOFC-GOLD strategy document overall structure was good. It was suggested that section 5.1.1. should be 'Identifying requirements.' Section 5.5 should be GOFC-GOLD Products and Services. Under section 8 of the strategy document should add - overview and goals of the networks.
- Preparation activities – IT reports; RNs report template: Action - IT Chairs to communicate with John Townshend on material needed for section 6 and 7 for presentations. Chris Justice and Ivan Csiszar have some fire products being reviewed by the Fire IT members. Chris Justice is preparing a template for RN material. It was agreed that an overview be prepared of the entire network system. Need to look for more funding for RNs, beyond START funding.

4. Support for regional networks

- Continuation of START cooperation: Michael Brady held discussions with START staff at their offices. They are interested and able to work with GOFC to look for future funding, which could involve NASA and other groups. Two NASA funding opportunities requiring expressions of interest in March include: LCLUC and ACCESS. John Townshend is discussing with NASA as to which of the two is most appropriate to provide network support.
- David Skole informed the participants that the NSF proposal was turned down.
- Proposal development and future funding that involve networks: Michael Brady informed the participants that Chris Justice had provided a draft Fire IT proposal, which includes two regional networks. Martin Herold is continuing work on a Land Cover IT proposal, which includes regional network involvement.

5. Reports on other meetings

- International Conference on Land Cover and Land Use Change Processes in North East Asia Region, 2-5 February, 2005, Harbin, China: Garik Gutman informed the participants that the meeting was successful and there was good communication between Chinese and Russian scientists. It was hosted by Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). He will circulate the report to the members. NERIN can facilitate this co-operation.
- GFMC-GOFC meetings: Johann Goldammer reported that a NE Asia Regional Wildland Fire Network Meeting was held on 17-18 January 2005 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan. A meeting by the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction was held on 18-22 January in Kobe, Hygo, Japan. The main discussion was on the tsunami. Now preparing for the ministers meeting to be held on 14 March 2005 at FAO, Rome, where a global wildland fire accord will be tabled.

- Annual Fire IT meeting, Montreal, 7-9 February 2005: Ivan Csiszar stated that the meeting went well. Two additional objectives were identified. Will have a report ready for the STB meeting. The representative from India is a good contact for the Fire IT. Johann Goldammer followed up on suggestions from the Indian representative and made contact with the Indian Space Agency and the Indian Forest Service, and also with Nepal and Bhutan. The intention is to start a Southern Asia Regional Network. Also gave the CONABIO (Mexico) representatives contact for the Central America Wildland Fire Regional Network.
- Northern Eurasia Regional Network Workshop, 18-19 June 2005, St Petersburg, Russia: Olga Krankina informed the meeting that the invitations have been sent and they are receiving good responses. There is another meeting planned for the same time and would be in competition. Suggested that the two meetings should be combined to avoid this conflict. Action: Olga Krankina to follow-up by email to receive suggestions on resolving this conflict.
- 6th Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community, 9-13 October 2005, Bonn, Germany: Martin Herold was informed by the organizers that GOFC did not get a panel and should join the global and regional forest panel. He is working with the LUCC office in Belgium to try and have an external panel, if approved he will then ask for abstracts.

6. Any other business

- Next teleconference to be confirmed for 24 March 2005.

GOFC-GOLD Project Office