

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 7 April, 2005**

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, John Latham, Reuben Sessa, Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, Regina Oglesby, Alan Belward, Olga Krankina, Kathleen Landauer, David Skole, Johann Goldammer, Garik Gutman, Chris Schmallius, Martin Herold, Murugi Larsen

### **Highlights and Action Items**

- IT Chairs to communicate with John Townshend on materials needed for the strategy document. Chris Justice and Ivan Csiszar have sent the Fire IT input. David Skole will send Land Cover IT input soon. *Ongoing*
- Olga Krankina has requested for assistance from FAO. John Latham will send by end of next week information on funding assistance requested by Olga. *New*
- John Townshend stated that there is an opportunity for NASA to support Regional Networks through the Science and Data programmes. A proposal will be prepared by Hassan Virji of START in collaboration with John Townshend. *New*
- John Townshend, Martin Herold and Garik Gutman to send new information on workshops and meetings to Murugi Larsen for posting on the website. *Ongoing*
- Martin Herold to circulate information on status of the Cal/Val manual being prepared by Alan Strahler for land cover products. *New*

### **Details**

#### **1. GTOS matters**

- GTOS Steering Committee meeting update: John Latham mentioned that the steering meeting agenda and invitation list had been reduced in scope and numbers. Progress has been made within the GTOS framework for diversification of funding. The Italian government has confirmed their continued funding support of GTOS secretariat and panels and this will include funding for meetings.
- Ricardo Valentini will replace Shaun Quegan as the TCO chair.
- UNCCD meeting (May 2005) side event – informative material regarding activities on desertification: John Latham informed the participants that GTOS will have a stand with outreach material, he has sent a request to panel chairs to send material for the GTOS stand and to present if attending this meeting during this one hour session. Title is ‘GTOS support to the conventions’. Have received confirmation signed by the executive secretary of CBD on recognition of GTOS’ role in their support to CBD and have provided GTOS with an opportunity to start dialogue with them on variables and monitoring process.

#### **2. STB meeting**

- General status of meeting preparations: Michael Brady gave an update on the planning for the STB meeting; preparations are on schedule. The latest updated programme has been distributed. Have about 35 people confirmed. Ten to fifteen invitees have not yet confirmed. Hotel and venue have been confirmed. Any comments or questions on logistics contact Murugi Larsen.
- Strategy document and symposium presentations: John Townshend stated that there is flexibility in the materials to be discussed during the meeting. Will select breakout topics and group leaders at the meeting. The strategy document will be ready by tomorrow. John Townshend expects feedback on the document.
- Preparations for East Asia network meeting: David Skole does not have a final list of participants. He will send a letter with instructions for presentations. All preparations are on schedule. Will hold a short meeting with the regional participants before the meeting. Should consider a presentation per country.

- It was agreed that GTOS and GOF-C-GOLD project office bring display material. Some participants will bring posters.

### **3. Suggested new LC-IT member**

- Suggested new East Asia network meeting: John Townshend suggested that new members should be nominated by the IT, then confirmed by the chair. Should take into consideration geographical regions.

### **4. Support for Regional Networks**

- Continuation of START cooperation – status of new NASA proposal: Kathleen Landauer informed the meeting that the initial draft will be sent to John Townshend next week.

### **5. Reports on other meetings and workshops**

- GFMC/GOF-C-GOLD Fire IT meetings: Chris Justice informed the meeting about the 5<sup>th</sup> International workshop on Remote Sensing and GIS Application to Forest Fire Management: Fire Effects Assessment, 16 – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2005, Zaragoza, Spain. Preparations for the meeting were on schedule and papers were being submitted. Ivan Csiszar and David Roy will attend this meeting.
- Johann Goldammer further informed the meeting about FAO Ministerial meetings on forests, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2005, Rome, Italy. He informed the meeting that there was reluctance from some of the countries to form a formal international accord. UNFF5 meeting will be held in New York in May. Countries will discuss broader commitment to international arrangement on forests. Ministers and COFO endorsed recommendations that FAO cooperate with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to develop an international strategy. This will be done within the next month. The component on wildland fire using traditional and remote sensing will be part of this discussion. Johann Goldammer further informed the meeting that there was a meeting held in Macedonia for the Balkan region this week. This region has expanded to SE Europe. There is no expertise on fire remote sensing. Johann Goldammer will further discussion with Chris Justice the involvement of the GOF-C-GOLD Fire IT in this region.
- Planned land cover regional meetings: David Skole informed the meeting that the NSF proposal to support SE Asia was not approved. He was informed that the CVs of the participants from the region were not good enough. Still plan to hold a regional meeting in Dakar, Senegal to initiate a West African LC Regional Network with funding from START. Also have collateral funding from START to support a visiting scientist – Cheikh Mbow of Senegal for six weeks at Michigan State University in the fall. He will primarily work with David Skole to initiate the development of the regional network.
- Globcover kick off meeting: Martin Herold stated that this meeting will be held next week and will focus on the land cover products from MERIS data.
- John Townshend added that Alan Strahler was still developing a manual on procedures for validation on Land cover products. Need an update on the document status. Martin Herold will follow-up and inform the group.
- John Townshend also mentioned that there is a planned workshop for validation of continuous field products led by Matt Hansen at the S. Dakota State University. This workshop is being done within the framework of GOF-C-GOLD and CEOS CAL/VAL LPV group. Martin Herold to follow-up on progress made in the preparations for the joint GOF-C-GOLD/ CEOS CAL/VAL LPV workshop to be held in S. Dakota.
- John Latham stated that GTOS and the S. Dakota State University are preparing an agreement to support the development of meta products for environmental data for Africa, based on MODIS and the development of four products. Matt Hansen is the contact person at S. Dakota State University.

- Garik Gutman provided information on the 2nd CEOS/WGCV/Land Product Validation (LPV) Workshop on Albedo Products. This workshop will be held in April 27-28, 2005 at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly in Vienna, Austria. For more information please visit the website: [http://www.fluxnet.ornl.gov/fluxnet/Meetings/schaaf\\_2004.cfm](http://www.fluxnet.ornl.gov/fluxnet/Meetings/schaaf_2004.cfm). This meeting is being organized by the Boston University.

**6. Any other business**

- Next teleconference to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2005

GOFC-GOLD Project Office