

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 26 May, 2005

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Johann Goldammer, Chris Justice, David Skole, Garik Gutman, Rhonda Davis, Martin Herold, Kathleen Neumann, Ivan Csiszar, Reuben Sessa, Alan Belward, Lucilla Spini, Murugi Larsen

Highlights and Action Items

- Third GOFC-GOLD Science and Technical Board meeting was successfully held from 19-22 April 2005 at Beijing, China.
- STB report and new strategy document are being finalized following STB meeting
- Ricardo Valentini has been appointed as the TCO chair
- START submitted proposal to NASA for 3-years of new funding under ACCESS program.
- Canadian Space Agency has requested new 3-year workplan for GOFC-GOLD support.
- Project Office to coordinate preparation of a consolidated African Network proposal to be submitted to UNEP and other organizations.
- Nomination requested for Land Cover IT members.
- Martin Herold to contact Matt Hansen in regards to the planning of the GOFC-GOLD/CEOS/WGCV LPV continuous fields workshop.
- David Skole to circulate information on the West African Regional Network meeting.

Details

1. STB meeting

- General evaluation: Overall success of all the meetings held. There were good quality presentations made at the symposium. It was noted that China has had a rapid scientific advancement in the last three years. The Chinese are willing to host the East Asia Regional Network in Beijing. After the meeting John Townshend received good inputs for the strategy document. Also intends to contact some of the organizations that were not able to attend e.g. NOAA, letting them know of the STB meeting recommendations and support needed. Both Chris Justice and David Skole acknowledged that it was an advantage to involve the regional networks. The regional networks have developed rapidly and there was good reporting during the meeting. John Townshend stated that GEO has issued workplans for 2, 6 and 10 years time period. GOFC-GOLD can be involved in some of these workplans. Drafts have to be submitted by 30th June. **Action:** Project Office to find out how GOFC-GOLD can make contributions to the GEO workplans. Second phase, the draft workplans will be circulated to a broad audience and GOFC-GOLD will have a chance to comment on the submissions.
- Meeting report and short-term action items: The general report will be ready in two weeks. Report and presentations to be posted on the website on completion. **Action items:** 1. IT leaders to provide chair with a crosswalk of the IT functions for the strategy document (Project Office to coordinate). 2. Formalize East Asia Regional Network team. 3. John Townshend will discuss with WMO funding needs for GOFC-GOLD.
- Strategy document : John Townshend has received some detailed comments after the STB meeting. **Action:** Requested the IT leaders to send the crosswalk material for inclusion in the document. Guidance required from IT Chairs on changes to be made to the document.

2. GTOS/G3OS matters

- IGOS-P and CEOS 6 meeting update: John Townshend informed the meeting that GEO was discussed during this meeting. GEO has a different structure compared to IGOS-P. At present GEO still formulating its activities with 3 or 4 permanent staff. In the future GEO will provide the

overall international framework. IGOS-P will continue to work in parallel with GEO for about a year until a transition takes place.

- GTOS SC meeting update: Lucilla Spini stated that a sponsors meeting was held instead of the full steering committee meeting. **Action:** Lucilla Spini to circulate the minutes of the GTOS sponsors meeting and ask for feedback. Will hold a steering committee meeting after the full membership has been approved. John Townshend is satisfied with the changes made to the MOU in regards to participation of panel chairs.
- UNCCD meeting/GTOS Conventions report/CBD: Lucilla Spini informed the meeting that UNCCD meeting was successful. She thanked Michael Brady for providing GOFC-GOLD outreach material. She requested that GOFC-GOLD provide material on land degradation, land cover and land use issues for the planned desertification meeting next year.
- TCO status-link to ExComm: Lucilla Spini stated that Ricardo Valentini has been appointed as the TCO chair, although his appointment is still to be formalized. He is also the chair of Science and Technology committee, UNCCD. It was agreed that it is not necessary to include the TCO chair for the GOFC-GOLD monthly teleconferences.
- GOFC-GOLD to attend next GCOS SC meeting in September 2005: Alan Belward mentioned that the meeting has been postponed to 6 – 7th October. The new GCOS director is David Goodrich of NOAA. The 3 panels will meet with the director in August for a briefing. Alan Belward will update him on the STB meeting and recommendations made.

3. Administration and Fund Raising

- Continuation of START cooperation – status of new NASA proposal: Michael Brady confirmed that START had submitted the new ACCESS proposal to NASA. Competition results might take up to six months. **Action:** Kathleen Landauer to provide an updated balance of current NASA funds.
- CSA annual report and new workplan submission: Project Office submitted 2004/05 annual report and 2005/06 workplan to CSA. The workplan has been approved with minor changes and new funds will be released soon. CSA has asked GOFC-GOLD Project Office to submit a new three year workplan for 2006-2008. **Action:** Project Office to prepare 3-year workplan based on STB meeting outcome, revised strategy report and discussions with all GOFC-GOLD groups.
- Follow-up on funding opportunities: It was agreed that GOFC-GOLD needs additional funding from other organizations. Chris Justice added that there was a suggestion that a consolidated African Network proposal be prepared and submitted to UNEP and other organizations. **Action:** Project Office to coordinate preparations of the consolidated proposal.

4. Fire IT Update

- 5th International workshop, 16-18 June 2005, Zaragoza: Chris Justice mentioned that the planning is on schedule. There will be an informal meeting within a session on the Mediterranean Regional Network. Fire Paradox is a new regional network created for this region, it does not have remote sensing. The Fire IT can use Fire Paradox as a springboard to create the Mediterranean Regional Network. South America will also be holding a follow-up workshop in October that will be hosted by CONABIO and will require funding.
- Other planned fire activities: Johann Goldammer gave an update on the UNFF meeting. Had posters from the Fire IT. Not much input from the Fire community. Senegal interested in a West African Regional Network. Global Wildland Fire Network interested in opening a regional office in West Africa. Johann Goldammer to communicate with Dave Skole in regards to the planned West Africa Regional Network meeting in Dakar, Senegal. **Action:** David Skole to send Cheikh Mbow's contact to Johann Goldammer.

- John Townshend stated that it is important that both IT's regularly meet with their members and that this could be easily done by teleconference. Fire IT held an annual meeting in February 05 in Montreal and are preparing a report and will also publish an article. **Action:** Plan to hold a teleconference.

5. Land Cover IT Update

- 2nd CEOS/WGCV LPV Workshop, 27-28 April, 2005, Vienna: Garik Gutman mentioned that the meeting was a success. It was a follow-up to a meeting held in Boston in 2002 and was on albedo. Participants at the meeting agreed that albedo products are in good agreement, but there is still need to improve accuracy. Next meeting is planned for the end of 2005 or early 2006. A report will be available in a month. Contact for this group is Jeff Morissette LPV chair.
- GOF-C-GOLD/CEOS/WGCV LPV continuous fields workshop, S. Dakota: the meeting has been postponed. **Action:** John Townshend requested that Martin Herold contact Matt Hansen to ensure that GOF-C-GOLD is involved in the planning of this workshop.
- Other planned land cover activities: David Skole stated that Martin Herold has prepared a list of action items for the LC IT. Priority **Actions** are: 1. revise strategy document, 2. develop response document to the GCOS Implementation Plan, 3. prepare a GEOSS demo – will report back on some of the actions next teleconference. David Skole is planning to go to Jena this summer to hold meetings at the LC IT project office. **Action:** LC IT to hold a planning teleconference with members. Jena office planning a workshop for September. Plans are being developed for Kathleen Neumann to continue working at the LC IT project office and with the GTOS secretariat. Alan Belward added that ESA and JRC have signed Globcover 2000 agreement. GMES programme board has approved land cover as one of the 3 priority themes. This approval will be presented to the advisory council on 1st June. Frederic Achard coordinator of Globcover at JRC has agreed to serve on the LC IT team if approved. John Townshend had previously suggested a nominee from Australian for the LC IT team. **Action:** Nomination of new IT members to be discussed during the planned LC teleconference.

6. Regional Networks Update

- East Asia network status: David Skole will prepare and circulate a report on the East Asia Regional Network to initiate activities. **Action:** Project Office to send David Skole East Asia contacts and Beijing meeting report.
- NERIN Workshop, 18-19 June 2005, St. Petersburg: Michael Brady to give a GOF-C-GEOSS presentation at the plenary session, while Martin Herold will give a presentation on GOF-C-land Cover presentation at a technical session. **Action:** John Townshend will send presentation on GOF-C-GOLD that can be used during this meeting.
- West Africa Land Cover Regional Network meeting, Dakar, Senegal: The meeting will be held on 18 – 20 August, 2005. Invitations have been sent out to regional representatives. David Skole suggested that the Project Office assist with invitations outside of West Africa. **Action:** David Skole to discuss this further with Project Office. Cheikh Mbow can be contact for both land cover and fire in the West African region. **Action:** Fire IT to send contacts for invitations to the meeting. David Skole to circulate information on the meeting.

7. Any other business

- Upon a 2-day advance request, the GOF-C-GOLD project office will assist with teleconference bookings.
- Next teleconference to be announced.