

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 28 July, 2005**

Participants: Michael Brady, Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, Chris Schmallius, Martin Herold, Kathleen Neumann, Garik Gutman, Reuben Sessa, Olga Krankina, Kathleen Landauer, Murugi Larsen

### **Highlights and Action Items**

- GOFC-GOLD submits 18 work packets to be included in 2-year GEOSS workplan for 2005-2007.
- Fire Implementation Team submits survey of fire early warning systems for wildland fire to Secretariat for UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.
- Working group in place to prepare GOFC-GOLD's contribution to the GCOS-IP progress report to UNFCCC.
- New display banners are being prepared, which reflect GOFC-GOLD goals and activities confirmed at recent STB meeting.
- Consultation and planning underway for GOFC-GOLD regional networks workshop.

### **Details**

#### **Amendment to Agenda**

- Addition to Item 3: GOFC-GOLD out-reach material

#### **1. STB meeting follow-up**

- Meeting report: Michael Brady stated that the meeting report is in draft form and will be discussed with John Townshend prior to circulation. **Action:** A summary of action items has been prepared and will be distributed. John Townshend is still working on the strategy document.

#### **2. GTOS/G3OS matters**

- GOFC input to UNFCCC progress report (GCOS IP) for 5 August: Reuben Sessa and Stefano Mazzilli gave a summary on the UNFCCC progress report. Josef Cihlar has been retained to prepare both progress report and framework report (development of data and guidelines for terrestrial observations), which includes GOFC inputs. The reports will be submitted to COP 11 in late 2005. Once endorsed, funding can be raised for organizations implementing activities in the report. Both the Land Cover IT (Martin Herold) and Fire IT (Ivan Csiszar) have prepared draft progress report materials, some of which has been distributed. **Action:** Project Office to work with Martin Herold, Chris Justice and Ivan Csiszar to compile GOFC-GOLD progress report, which has been requested by GTOS for 5 August 2005. Note: Task 1 notes from Josef Cihlar that describe possible framework mechanism approaches have been circulated by Reuben Sessa.
- GTOS activities; upcoming steering meeting, K. Neumann, GEOSS 2-year work packets: Reuben Sessa informed the meeting that the GTOS steering committee meeting will be held in November or December 2005. Will finalize in a day or two with Berrien Moore. Kathleen Neumann's contribution agreement has been modified to FAO format. It will be sent to the Project Office and LC IT project office soon. GTOS is reviewing the GEOSS work packets prepared by FAO and, as requested, will send GOFC-relevant packets to the Project Office. FAO, WMO and UNEP are compiling their work packets.
- GEOSS 2-year work packets submitted by GOFC-GOLD: 18 work packets were prepared and submitted by the Project Office to the GEO Secretariat at WMO on 15 July 2005. Martin Herold and Michael Brady took the lead in the preparation of these work packets, in consultation with John Townshend, Chris Justice and Ivan Csiszar. Work packets were distributed to the Executive Committee, as well as GCOS. Soon after the submission, the GEO Secretariat requested and received clarification from the Project Office on of the several packets.

#### **3. Administration and Fund Raising**

- Adjustments to START-NASA funds: Kathleen Landauer has circulated the current status of the START budget to the ITs. The funds have been extended from July 2005 to July 2006. Chris Justice has confirmed the Fire IT commitment. Still waiting for David Skole to confirm or modify Land cover IT funds allocation. Based on a request by Michael Brady, Kathleen Landauer will confirm if funds can be re-allocated for a planned Regional Networks of network workshop in 2006. Request for re-allocation of Fire funds for workshop in Mexico and India has been confirmed. **Action:** Martin Herold to check with David Skole on the Land Cover IT funds commitment and confirm with Kathleen Landauer.
- GOFC-GOLD out-reach material: Michael Brady informed the meeting that the Project Office was in the process of preparing new GOFC-GOLD display banners. The banners reflect the latest goals and activities agreed at STB3 and are for use by all at meetings, conferences and workshops. The pdfs of the three banners have been circulated for comments on design and input from the ITs. **Action:** ITs to provide graphics by 5<sup>th</sup> August.

#### 4. Fire IT Update

- UN ISDR early warning survey for wildland fire: Michael Brady stated that the Project Office compiled the survey report, with inputs from several Fire IT members and the Canadian Forest Service. The report and executive summary were submitted to the UN ISDR secretariat by Johann Goldammer. In addition, letters of support are being prepared by IT members and their institutions. Johann Goldammer was the lead on compiling this report. If the report is approved and funds are provided, GOFC-GOLD is in a good position to lead the development of a global fire danger rating system. Final submission will be early next week from Johann Goldammer. Fire IT will post this report on their website.
- Planned fire activities – next fire IT meeting: Chris Justice mentioned that apart from the workshop to be held in October in Mexico, the Fire IT does not have any planned activities. Will probably hold a Fire IT telcon late this year. More activities are planned for the spring of 2006.
- Tropical deforestation workshop held at Carnegie Institute on 7<sup>th</sup> July. Chris Justice reported that a suggestion was put forward (not clear by whom) to form a sub group under the Land Cover IT focusing on tropical forest and carbon. **Action:** Martin Herold will contact Ruth DeFries in regards to formation of a working group. It was suggested that the working group be composed of Ruth DeFries, Chris Schmuilius, David Skole and Martin Herold.

#### 5. Land Cover IT Update

- GOFC-GOLD/CEOS/WGCV LPV continuous fields workshop, S. Dakota: Martin Herold circulated the preliminary agenda. This has been posted on the GOFC website. The workshop announcement will be in the next Land Cover IT newsletter.
- Membership review: The following nominees have been circulated to the Excomm: Fredric Achard of EC, Sergey Bartalev of the Russian Space Institute, Simon Jones of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and Mike Wulder of the Canadian Forest Service. **Action:** The Excomm requested that the Land Cover IT prepare a final list of membership changes to be sent to the Project Office, which will then prepare and send letters of invitation (standardized format).
- GEOSS demonstration project-working group: focus on global forest assessment. Work packets have been prepared and submitted to the GEO Secretariat, which describe general concept of demo project. The next step is to come up with specific projects and funding. Will hold a teleconference at the end of August. **Action:** Martin Herold will circulate information on the teleconference.
- Other planned land cover activities: Martin Herold informed the meeting that the Land Cover IT at Jena had submitted two proposals related to GOFC on: 1) Integrated project that focuses on harmonization and includes all aspects of geo-spatial data, and 2) ESA – Land cover validation to be based on the CEO CAL/VAL best practice document.

- EC 4<sup>th</sup> Call for proposals for Global Change and Ecosystems: a proposal on GEOSS demonstration could be submitted. **Action:** Christiane Schmuilius and Martin Herold to evaluate opportunity.

## **6. Regional Networks Update**

- Plans for regional networks of network meeting: Murugi Larsen gave a brief update on the initial planning that has started with an email sent to regional networks representatives asking for their input. Positive responses were received, with suggestions on venues and topics. Concern was raised that the main focus of the workshop should be to identify and plan regional networks activities and proposals should be developed out of this meeting. Should ensure availability of funding for the activities proposed. Also include activities that the regional networks can collaborate. Need to connect the workshop to a successful fundraising process. **Action:** Murugi Larsen to include interested RN representatives in workshop planning group, and to compile suggestions for workshop scope.

## **7. Reports on other meetings & workshops**

- Olga Krankina will circulate report on the NERIN workshop held in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- Chris Schmuilius gave an update on the 2-day IGOL meeting. A decision was made to continue work on the 8 IGOL requirements that are defined by GEOSS, and add an additional requirement on urbanization. Next step is to prepare a report.
- Chris Schmuilius also gave an update on the SIBERIA II meeting. More details can be found at: <http://www.siberia2.uni-jena.de/index.php>. The final report is being prepared and will be posted on the Land Cover IT website. Publications on the project are available and can be distributed on request.

## **8. Any other business**

- The GOFC-GOLD website –news and calendar sections are updated regularly by Murugi Larsen and Reuben Sessa. The other sections are updated periodically. Request for feedback on the website.
- Next GOFC-GOLD teleconference to be held on the third Thursday in September.

Happy Holidays!

GOFC-GOLD Project Office