

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 22 July 2004**

Participants: John Townshend, Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, John Latham, Reuben Seesa, Chris Schmullius, Kathleen Landauer, David Skole, Shaun Quegan, Olga Krankina, Michael Brady, Murugi Larsen

### **Highlights and Action Items:**

- GOFC-GOLD/FAO Workshop on Harmonization of Global Land Cover Products was successfully held and resulted in several translated map legends from around the world using LCCS2. Action plans were formulated for LCCS outreach and training for regional networks, a proposal on international validation procedures and fund raising.
- Further attempts have been unsuccessful to incorporate GOFC-GOLD regional fire information products into FRA 2005. The FRA product is viewed seriously and efforts to collaborate will continue.
- GTOS funding is confirmed for a GOFC-GOLD Science and Technical Board meeting. The meeting is planned for Beijing, China in February 2004. Chinese sponsorship is being sought. The meeting will incorporate several elements, including the initiation of a GOFC-GOLD East Asia regional network.

### **Details:**

1. Plans for NEESPI Regional Meeting at Rostov on Don
  - Olga Krankina reviewed the factors leading to the postponement of the regional meeting, which included: insufficient planning arrangements for international and local support; and perhaps too strong a link to NEESPI, with more focus needed on the GOFC-GOLD regional network.
  - She mentioned that the meeting is still needed, but was uncertain as to who would lead the event. A 2-day workshop at St. Petersburg is being planned as a follow-up to the February 2004 regional workshop to initiate the NERIN.
  - John Townshend emphasized the importance of the planning guidelines for meetings and workshops, recently proposed by Chris Justice.
  - Project Office will circulate the guidelines (and place on website) as a GOFC-GOLD internal protocol to be followed for future events.
2. Results of GOFC-GOLD/FAO Workshop on Harmonization of Global Land Cover Products, FAO Rome, Italy, 14-16 July 2004
  - Chris Schmullius was pleased with the participation at the workshop, particularly the scientists who attended from Maryland and Michigan Universities. Participants reviewed the LCCS2 and used it to translate map legends from several testbeds, including the IGBP and CORINE maps.
  - The workshop resulted in plans for several future activities, including LCCS outreach and training for regional networks, reformulation of the proposal on international validation procedures; and fund raising. A workshop report is being prepared.
3. Results of SE Asia Fire Workshop, Putra Jaya, Malaysia 17-19 May 2004
  - Chris Justice reported that the local organizers are preparing the workshop report. He noted that a report is now on the Fire IT website from the March 2004 Geostationary workshop.
4. FRA 2005 Fire Proposal
  - Chris Justice explained that a recent meeting with the FRA team was unsuccessful in obtaining support for GOFC-GOLD fire input to the FRA 2005.

- John Townshend pointed out the concerns about previous FRA reports and the increasing importance of the FRA data in the future as input to other programmes, e.g. IPCC. Accordingly, he suggested that GOFC has an obligation to be more aggressive towards FRA to ensure quality outputs. John Latham will continue discussions with FRA team.

#### 5. Plans for S&T Board Meeting

- John Latham informed the ExComm that GTOS has received additional funding mainly from the Italian Government, which will be used to support the Secretariat and panels. In particular, GTOS can now provide funds for the STB meeting.
- John Townshend confirmed that planning can proceed for the STB meeting at Beijing in early 2005 (February proposed). He summarized recent discussions among ExComm regarding the scope of the meeting, which could include the following elements:
  - Oversight/external strategic advice
  - Fund raising
  - Internal business and planning
  - Initiation of the East Asia regional network

John Townshend will formulate a meeting plan, which incorporates the elements and distribute it to the ExComm.

- The proposed STB members list was discussed. The ExComm endorsed the inclusion of GOFC members as Ex Officio members of the STB. It was agreed that ExComm members would submit their suggestions regarding Board composition directly to John Townshend. He will then revise the list and distribute it for further comments.
- John Townshend has requested involvement of Chinese in the STB and that the meeting be held at Beijing in February 2005. Regarding the initiation of the East Asia GOF-GOLD regional network, participation is expected from China, Japan, the Koreas and Taiwan.
- To initiate the planning, the Project Office will distribute a survey to the ExComm to identify contacts and existing collaborative EO programs in the East Asia countries.

#### 6. Update on GOFC-GOLD Report Series

- Murugi Larsen reported that the reports to be included in the series are being formatted. The series list will be circulated to the ExComm for comments and to solicit addition reports. She also briefly explained the changes to the website, which are underway. Several pages are being redesigned to better highlight the implementation teams and create a common look and feel.
- The GTOS Secretariat is preparing new formatting for reports and websites, which will be available in September 2004. John Townshend emphasized the importance of quickly establishing the GOFC-GOLD report series, which can later be adapted to the new formatting.

#### 7. Status of IGOS Land Theme (IGOL)

- John Townshend reported that invitations have been sent for the next meeting on 13-15 September at FAO.
- John Latham mentioned that GTOS can provide funds for a 6-month position to support initial IGOL activities. He requested CVs from the ExComm for potential candidates (at post-doc level).

#### 8. Any other Business

Report from Terrestrial Carbon Observations (TCO) Panel:

- Shuan Quegan expressed concern about the current direction of the TCO, particularly related to possible duplication with other programs. He observed that the implementation plan is now out of date and that there are new areas not being addressed.
- John Townshend suggested that this issue be raised at the upcoming GTOS steering meeting in October 2004, during which all panels should be assessed for relevance and new needs be addressed and incorporated.

**Next meeting: August, 2004 – date to be determined**