

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 26 August 2004

Participants: John Townshend, Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, Reuben Seesa, Chris Schmallius, Kathleen Landauer, Garik Gutman, Olga Krankina, Johann Goldammer, Martin Herold, Michael Brady, Murugi Larsen

Highlights and Action Items:

- Positive response received from Chinese regarding their desire to host the STB meeting at Beijing in February 2005. Meeting plan and budget are being formulated.
- ExComm members asked to comment on proposed STB member list.
- Chair and Ex Director will represent panel at GTOS steering meeting on 7-8 October 2004.
- ExComm endorsed guideline for organizing GOFC-GOLD meetings and workshops
- 19 reports are included in the GOFC-GOLD series, which is reorganized on the website.
- ExComm inputs are required to revise the 1999 GOFC-GOLD strategy document, which will be used at the 2005 STB meeting.

Details:

1. Plans for S&T Board Meeting

- John Townshend received a positive response from his Chinese contact regarding their desire to host the STB meeting at Beijing in February 2005. Final confirmation is pending. To select the meeting dates, Michael Brady has asked ExComm members to identify when in February they would not be available to attend. All members were asked to respond as soon as possible.
- Michael Brady will prepare a budget for the meeting, which identifies travel, accommodation and meal costs. The host will be asked to cover costs for the venue, as well as for accommodation and meal costs for attendees from regional networks and universities.
- John Townshend will formulate a meeting plan and distribute it to the ExComm.

2. STB composition

- Several suggestions have been received on proposed STB members list, which had been distributed to members last month. More input is needed, particularly for STB members who would serve in an advising function. John Townshend asked the IT Chairs to submit their suggestions. He will then revise the list and distribute it for further comments.

3. Preparations for GTOS steering meeting

- Reuben Sessa explained that the meeting will be held on 7-8 October 2004 at FAO, Rome. A draft agenda has been distributed for comments. Berrien Moore will attend in his new role of GTOS Chairman.
- John Townshend commented that, to benefit the panels, the meeting should produce a clear and coherent vision of GTOS. He and Michael Brady will attend the meeting and are currently preparing a written report and presentation.

4. Planning for the regional GOFC NERIN workshop, June 2005, St. Petersburg

- Olga Krankina explained that the workshop is a follow-up to the one held in February 2004. The intention is to bring in major programs and projects to expand the NERIN beyond the NEESPI.
- Chris Schmallius commented that the NORTH (Boreas Machine) project would be included in the workshop.

5. Guideline for Organization of GOFC-GOLD Meetings and Workshops

- The ExComm endorsed guideline for use. The Project Office will add timelines for various activity steps in the guideline.
 - Olga Krankina will test the guidelines while preparing the upcoming NERIN Workshop.
6. GOFC-GOLD Report Series
- Murugi Larsen reported that 19 reports are included in the GOFC-GOLD series, which is now on the website. Common GOFC-GOLD front cover and information pages have been inserted into the electronic reports. Members were asked to send Murugi a list of the key reports, which should be produced in hardcopy version.
 - 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.
 - Michael Brady commented that the Data Information Services and Systems (DISS) section of the website requires updating to demonstrate progress by the panel from product demonstration to operations. He will discuss DSS updates with the implementation teams.
7. Revision of GOFC-GOLD strategy document
- Michael Brady explained the draft table of contents for the revised GOFC-GOLD strategy document. The table was distributed beforehand to members for comments. Limited comments had been received. Members were requested to review and send comments to Michael on the document structure. The revised strategy document will be presented at the upcoming STB meeting.
8. Any Other Business
- Martin Herold will represent GOFC-GOLD at the IAO/USAID/FAO/UNEP expert meeting: Land Cover Mapping and Change Assessment: applications, policies and networks in support of sustainable development, at Florence, Italy, 21-23 September 2004.
 - Kathleen Landauer informed the ExComm that the START contract has been extended to the third year and that funds for this period are being appraised.
 - John Townshend edited an article produced by Bob Scholes on GOFC-GOLD to be published in the encyclopaedia 'Our Changing Earth'.
 - Alan Belward sent a note indicating that the major edit of the GCOS Implementation Plan was concluded at WMO last week. All the actions in the draft that concerned GOFC (land cover, fire, fAPAR, LAI, above-ground biomass and the nascent technical commission) attracted only positive comment from external governmental and scientific reviewers.
 - Ivan Csiszar will attend the Regional GOFC/GOLD Workshop "Satellite-based fire monitoring network in Northern Eurasia: Methods, Data Products, Applications", Moscow, Russian Federation, 17 November 2004.
 - Johann Goldammer will attend the GOFC-GOLD South America Network (REDLATIF) Regional Fire Meeting at Santiago, Chile, 29 - 30 November 2004.

Next meeting: September 2004 – date to be determined