

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 30th September, 2004

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Alan Belward, Johann Goldammer, Chris Schmullius, Martin Herold, Kathleen Neumann, Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, Olga Krankina, Rueben Sessa, Kathleen Landauer, Murugi Larsen

Highlights and Action Items:

- Michael Brady has taken over chairing the GOFC-GOLD teleconference.
- The next Land Cover Mapping and Change Assessment workshop will be held in South Africa.
- Proposed GOFC NERIN workshop dates are 18 to 19 June 2005.
- Chris Schmullius to send a proposal to EU INCO-program asking for support for the GOFC NERIN workshop.
- Murugi Larsen to distribute the dates for the STB meeting, to be held on 28th February to 4th March, 2005 in Beijing, China for three and a half days.
- All Excomm members to provide names for the STB members list.
- Murugi Larsen to circulate product tables to be used for updating the website data section.
- Martin Herold to update the Excomm members on the status of the proposal on international validation.

Details:

1. Report on the Land Cover Mapping and Change Assessment Workshop at Florence 21-23 September
 - Martin Herold briefed participants on the workshop. The main recommendations from the meeting were: to build synergies among stakeholders; ensure continuity of the systems; to mobilize adequate resources by various governments; to especially focus on capacity building; and to focus on public and private partnership to support continuation of land cover activities. There were many participants at the workshop from developing countries, mainly Africa. Capacity building was emphasized. The meeting was not too technical. There were four discussion groups, three of the groups focused on different regions of Africa, the other group focused on global issues.
 - John Townshend stated that the conclusions from the meeting were too generic and not particularly technical.
 - Michael Brady asked how GOFC can be involved in the future. Martin Herold indicated that GOFC will be involved in the preparation of the documents.
 - John Townshend expressed his concern with duplication of programmes. During upcoming GTOS meeting he will suggest streamlining and rationalizing of activities to eliminate duplication.
 - Olga Krankina suggested that in the final document they should include a recommendation for capacity building and development of synergies for Russia, similar to model being developed between Europe and Africa.
 - Martin Herold will keep the Excomm members updated on future developments.
2. Planning for the regional GOFC NERIN workshop, June 2005, St. Petersburg, prior to the ISRSE symposium
 - Olga Krankina gave an update on the preparations for the workshop, which is planned for 18 to 19th June 2005. A draft agenda has been prepared and Garik Gutman has committed to support this workshop. More funding still required. Olga Krankina will be traveling to Russia in November to try and get support from the Russian Academy of Science; they have supported GOFC on previous workshops. She will also contact John Latham.
 - Chris Schmullius will prepare a proposal for funding for the GOFC NERIN workshop from the EU INCO programme.

3. Planning for STB meeting: dates, format and funding needs

- John Townshend proposed a 3.5 day meeting.
- Alan Belward pointed out that it would be best to hold the meeting after the Earth Observation summit to be held in Brussels in February, 2005, followed by Earth Space week.
- After deliberation it was agreed that the meeting will be held during the week of the 28th February to 4th March 2005 in Beijing, China. The meeting would comprise of: two days for STB business meeting, one day on East Asian needs with the intention of setting up a regional network, and a half day symposium for senior government officials. The symposium would include approximately 50% Chinese presentations and 50% from other GOF-C-GOLD members on the topic of Land Cover Change.
- All the participants agreed on the proposed dates and format.
- **Action:** Murugi Larsen to distribute these dates to all Excomm members and GTOS.

4. STB composition

- Michael Brady mentioned that there was still a need to identify funding requirements.
- John Townshend requested further input from the Excomm on the proposed STB members list.
- Alan Belward, John Latham and John Townshend will hold a small meeting while in Rome and come up with more names.
- Michael Brady added that we also need to identify individuals to represent the regional networks.
- **Action:** All Excomm members to provide names for the STB members list.

5. Preparations for GTOS steering meeting

- Reuben Sessa reported that the agenda for the meeting has been completed. Still need a representative from GOOS, probably from the Coastal panel. Berrien Moore keen on streamlining GTOS. The intention is to cover all items during the meeting.
- Suggestions were made that there should be clear guidelines from GTOS on panel activities to avoid duplication. FAO activities should also be discussed to clarify what it is taking on and what other organizations should do. Reuben Sessa acknowledged that a complete review of the panels roles and activities will be addressed.
- Concerns were raised in regards to the uncertain links between GTOS and some of the other organizations for example, International Long Term Ecological Research Network (ILTER), FLUXNET, GEWEX (project under WCRP).
- During the GTOS meeting John Townshend will propose that GEWEX attend future GTOS steering committee meetings.

6. Website update of data services and systems

- Murugi Larsen briefly described the status of the data section on the website. Ex Comm members were requested to identify data sets, which comply with GOF-C-GOLD standards and to send the links to Murugi Larsen.
- John Townshend suggested that we use the products tables in Figure 2 of report "MEETING THE GOALS OF GOF-C: AN EVALUATION OF PROGRESS AND STEPS FOR THE FUTURE" (Townshend et al). It was agreed that the use of these tables would be an effective way of reformulating the data section.
- Murugi Larsen will circulate the tables and update the tables by adding links as data sets are identified by Excomm members.

7. Update of meetings and workshop schedules

- Northern Eurasian GOF-C-GOLD Fire Network Workshop to be held on 17th November, 2004

- Ivan Csiszar is working on the logistics and will post this information on the Fire IT website. Participants will mainly be from Russia, from former Soviet Union, e.g. Mongolia and other international participants. The focus of the discussion will be on methods on detection, fire mapping and data production and distribution. This workshop will mainly be on fire. It is part of NERIN and Olga is working closely with Ivan Csiszar.
 - The organizers have suggested that there should be a presentation on NERIN and NEESPI.
 - Olga Krankina mentioned that the St. Petersburg meeting will be on land cover.
- GOF-C-GOLD South America Network (REDLATIF) Regional Fire Meeting, 29 to 30th November, 2004
- Chris Justice stated that they have a draft agenda on the workshop to be held in Santiago, Chile. This will be posted on the Fire IT website. There is also a website for the workshop.
- Fire IT workshop, Edmonton, Alberta, 2005
- Michael Brady and Chris Justice discussed the status of the Fire IT workshop to be held in Edmonton. It was suggested that Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, Tim Lynham and the GOF-C-GOLD project office work together in organizing this meeting.
- ISRSE symposium
- John Townshend stated that he has been asked by one of the organizers, Chuck Hutchinson to organize a session on data policy and sharing. This could be done under the GOF-C-GOLD label. Have one or two GOF-C-GOLD members or affiliates give presentations at this session.
- GLC 2000 validation workshop, JRC, Ispra, Italy, 7 to 8th October, 2004
- Chris Schmullius asked if a GOF-C representative would attend this workshop. It was agreed that Martin Herold would attend.
 - Alan Belward stated that Alan Strahler was attending the meeting as a representative for CEOS LPV sub group.
 - Chris Justice stated that fire validation workshop will be held next year. Dr. Olivier Arino of ESA/ESRIN, in Frascati, Italy has offered to host this workshop. Focus will be on burnt area validation.
- CEOS Cal/Val continuous fields validation meeting at S. Dakota State University, Brookings.
- John Townshend mentioned that the meeting is scheduled for some time in the spring and will be held at the new Geographic Information Science Centre of Excellence, led by Mark Hansen, who has been appointed co-director with Tom Loveland.
 - Chris Justice stated that the CEOS LPV working group led by Jeff Morissette is doing an impressive job and has an important role to play in validation and GOF-C should give support
 - **Action:** Murugi Larsen to remind Michael Brady and John Townshend to send a letter to the chair of Cal/Val working group and the CEOS chair expressing GOF-C-GOLD's gratitude.
 - Martin Herold is working closely with Curtis Woodcock on the proposal on international validation.
 - The participants agreed that the proposal should include an outline with time lines.
 - Martin Herold will update the Excomm members on the status of the proposal.

8. Any other business

- John Townshend briefed the participants on a meeting that was held last week in Washington D.C. organized by the US Geological Survey, Association of American Geographers. Landsat 7 will not be in operation for long. The earliest bridging mission will be in 2008. John Townshend will send a letter or editorial to Science journal to draw scientist's attention to this problem.
- Next teleconference to be announced.