

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 21st October, 2004

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Ivan Csiszar, Alan Belward, Martin Herold, Shaun Quegan, Olga Krankina, Reuben Sessa Garik Gutman Kathleen Landauer, Murugi Larsen

Highlights and Action Items:

- Berrien Moore is new GTOS chair
- STB meeting dates and venue confirmed 28th February to 4th March, 2005, Beijing, China
- STB meeting programme being developed by GOFC-GOLD project office
- Project Office to distribute progress tables to IT Chairs for updating and to insert website addresses of products, which conform to GOFC-GOLD standards.
- Land Cover IT Office to circulate status report on proposal for international validation activities

Details:

1. Report on GTOS steering meeting:

- Reuben Sessa briefed participants on the GTOS steering meeting. Action items will be distributed this week, then the minutes later on.
- John Townshend was pleased with the new GTOS chair. The presentation on GOFC was well received mainly due to the provision of practical and useful products. He expressed concern that the meeting did not address the strategic framework GTOS should provide, particularly for the panels. He added that all the global observing systems and UN agencies need to re-evaluate their role in relation to the GEOSS.
- Alan Belward agreed, and emphasized the importance of developing clear terms of reference for the panels such as that under GCOS for TOPC. He cited the important links between the observing systems and Conventions (UNFCCC and IPCC).
- Shaun Quegan is also pleased with the new GTOS chair and also emphasized the need for clear guidance for the panels. GTOS needs a full time director to address these matters.
- Reuben Sessa stated that GTOS officials were aware of the concerns expressed. A group has been formed that will discuss these concerns.

2. Planning for STB meeting - agenda, budget and other logistics:

- Michael Brady stated that the 3.5-day STB meeting will be held 28 February to 4 March, 2005, as agreed upon during the September teleconference. (*Note: 1-4 March 2005 confirmed*)
- The Chinese have confirmed the venue. Michael Brady and John Townshend are working on a preliminary programme that will be distributed shortly. The program will be updated as inputs are received. Michael will be in China from 11-13 November to discuss plans with the Chinese hosts.
- John Townshend stated that the Chinese have agreed to fund local hotels and meals for up to 15 people who require financial support.
- John Townshend proposed that the first morning would be a summary of GOFC activities to date, and that the remainder of the time would be spent on revising GOFC strategy and future plans. He regretted that some committee members will not be able to attend the meeting because of schedule conflicts.

3. STB composition and invitees from East Asia:

- Michael Brady briefed participants on the various groups attending the STB meeting, which include: STB members; regional network representatives; future East Asia regional network members from the different countries involved; and local Chinese observers. He questioned how the existing regional networks could effectively assist the proposed East Asia network.
- John Townshend stated that we still need names from East Asia for the STB meeting, which should include people who have been involved in GOFC activities. He added that another issue is whether or

not this would be a comprehensive network for both Land Cover and Fire ITs, and this should be discussed during the STB meeting.

- David Skole has provided some names. China has shown a keen interest in attending the meeting, but participants need to be selected from Japan, South Korea, North Korea and Taiwan.
- Ivan Csiszar asked if the new network would include Russia Far East and if respective representatives would be invited. There was a brief discussion among the participants whether the boundaries for the regional networks should be limited. It was agreed that this should be left open, to be discussed during the meeting.

4. Progress in revised strategy document:

- John Townshend asked the participants to send comments to him on the table of contents of the revised strategy document (has been distributed). Once drafted, he will circulate the new strategy document to the committee. A final draft will be distributed before the 2005 STB meeting.

5. Support for regional networks – funding for annual meetings:

- John Townshend stated that regional networks are not yet self-sustaining and still need support funding. There is need for a broader funding strategy.
- Kathleen Landauer informed the committee that NASA START has approval to fund regional networks for the amount of US \$10K per network per year.
- Garik Gutman concurred that for the networks to be operational they require some seed funding annually. Regional networks need support to acquire funds for meetings, e.g. Chris Schmullius is assisting with a proposal to EU INCO-programme on behalf of NERIN.
- Olga Krankina also supports the funding for regional networks and added that confirmation of funding for the NERIN workshop will help when she meets in November with the Russian Academy of Science in regards to obtaining local funding for the workshop.
- It was agreed that available funds should be allocated for annual regional network meetings. At least US\$ 10K is required annually per network. It is important to contact more organizations for funding, for example, CNES. John Townshend and Michael Brady will develop a funding programme. Should have a representative from CNES at the STB meeting.
- Martin Herold will update Chris Schmullius on NERIN funding needs.
- Michael Brady mentioned that during the GTOS meeting John Latham stated that the EU has called for proposals on EO. This information was circulated and will be re-circulated to the IT chairs.

6. Status of proposal for international validation activities:

- Martin Herold has distributed an outline of the proposal. Feedback received during the recent GLC 2000 validation workshop was that there is need to create a good working model in order to involve international cooperation and participation. GOFC and CEOS Cal/Val collaboration is the right platform to foster this initiative.
- Olga Krankina mentioned she is involved in the NELDA project which is at the planning stages. The project will provide validation in Northern Eurasia. Garik Gutman is considering funding the planning activities of this project.
- Olga Krankina and Martin Herold acknowledged that there are ongoing parallel efforts and there is need for cooperation within GOFC-GOLD involving the regional networks.
- John Townshend added that it is important that specific activities in relation to validation are seen within end to end context. Need to ensure product being validated stays at an appropriate quality. GOFC could then promote this as a template for validation.
- Martin Herold will circulate an update of the outline for comments.

7. Website update of data services and systems:

- Murugi Larsen is revising the Data Systems and Services (DSS) section of the website, which is out of date. The links to demonstration materials will be replaced with a series of tables, which list GOFC-EO product classes and their stages of development progress. The tables will be distributed to IT chairs for them to include links to EO products at various stages of development, which meet the GOFC-GOLD standards.
- John Townshend explained that the tables will enable GOFC to fulfill its obligation to ensure that products are easily accessible.
- Reuben Sessa stated that they were re-structuring the GTOS websites and the changes will be posted soon. The navigational bars have been modified and GOFC can be accessed from the GTOS homepage in the new version.

8. Reports on other upcoming meetings and workshops:

GLC 2000 validation workshop, JRC, Ispra, Italy, 7 to 8th October, 2004

- Martin Herold briefed the participants on the workshop. Used the CEOS Cal/Val method for validation. The products will be compared to the IGBP products and then made accessible to users.

Northern Eurasian Fire Network Workshop, 17 November, 2004

- Ivan Csiszar stated that the preparations for the workshop were going well. Have about 30 presentations, which will include posters, oral and discussion sessions. During the plenary session there will be a presentation on NERIN. Russian and English workshop reports will be produced.

S. America Network (REDLATIF) Fire Meeting, 29-30th November, 2004

- Ivan Csiszar informed the participants that they have a student from S. America who is assisting with the meeting. S. America groups have different ideas on validation and mapping, and are trying to sort this out. The most important factor is that there is an agreement on validation protocol in the region.

Annual Fire IT meeting, 2005

- Tim Lynham to discuss plans with Chris Justice. Meeting should be held before the STB meeting. *(note: date now proposed for 7-9 February at CSA, Montreal)*

Regional GOFC NERIN workshop, June 2005, St. Petersburg

- Olga Krankina will be forming the organizing committee soon and will provide update after the Moscow Fire workshop.

CEOS Cal/Val continuous fields validation meeting at S. Dakota State University

- Mark Hansen is organizing this meeting and is the contact person.

9. Any other business:

- Martin Herold requested information for the upcoming newsletter of the Land Cover IT.
- Murugi Larsen described the success of the GOFC booth at the recent CIF/SAF conference, and thanked those who submitted materials for the booth.
- Michael Brady will be in SE Asia and China in late October and early November to meet with SE Asia regional network members and to plan STB meeting with hosts at Beijing.