

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2004**

Participants: Michael Brady, Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, Alan Belward, Chris Schmillius, Martin Herold, Johann Goldammer, Stefano Mazzilli, Garik Gutman, Kathleen Landauer, David Skole, Olga Krankina, Murugi Larsen

### **Highlights and Action Items**

- ExComm to select new dates for STB meeting on 15-18 March or 5-8 April 2005.
- New working group formed to develop funding plan for regional networks. The group includes Kathleen Landauer, Michael Brady and Murugi Larsen.
- David Skole to provide Kathleen Landauer with copy of RCN proposal for SE Asia regional networks under review at NSF
- Chris Justice to send Johann Goldammer a summary on regional networks activities to be presented at upcoming Freiberg and FAO ministers meetings.
- ExComm to send regional network contacts to Murugi Larsen for upcoming STB meeting.
- IT Co-Chairs to insert URL addresses of GOFC-GOLD compliant products in development tables in order for Murugi Larsen to update the Data Systems and Services on website.
- Martin Herold to circulate updates on proposed panel on Global Land Cover Observations: International Strategies and Implementation.

### **Details**

#### **1. Planning for STB meeting: dates, programme, other logistics**

- Michael Brady informed the participants that his meeting with the Chinese in regards to the STB meeting. The Chinese are favorable to support the meeting and to take the lead on initiating a East Asia GOFC-GOLD Network. Three individuals representing different agencies were appointed as counterparts.
- Due to the GEOSS meeting, Chinese New Years and the annual holiday period in February, the Chinese have requested that the meeting be postponed at least one week. Two new dates were discussed, including 15-18 March and 5-8 April 2005. Participants will send Michael Brady their preferred dates.

#### **2. STB composition and other invitees**

- Chris Justice briefed the participants on meeting with John Townshend in regards to STB composition. They agreed that selection should be broad and include organizations such as: CIFOR, ESA NOAA, other space agencies, forestry sector, FAO etc.
- Stefano Mazzilli will discuss FAO participation with John Latham and Jeff Tshirley.
- David Skole proposed that John Lewis who heads an NGO in Brazil be invited to attend the STB meeting. He will send his contact to Michael Brady.
- Michael Brady reported on a meeting at CIFOR where a qualified and interested scientist was identified who could contribute on tropical forest matters at the STB.
- Draft programme will be distributed to ExComm with proposed STB members list to date.

#### **3. Support for regional networks**

##### **a) Recent visit to SE Asia network**

- Michael Brady reported on visits with SE Asia Regional Network members in Malaysia and Indonesia. They are interested in attending the STB meeting and aim to enhance their involvement in GOFC-GOLD activities, and to make contact with the other regional networks. Mastura Muhamad expressed the need for senior members of the SE Asia network to meet for programme evaluation and planning, but that financial support would be required. In Jakarta GOFC-GOLD presentations were made at the Indonesia Space

Agency and the BPPT to explain current activities and to reactivate Indonesian participation in the regional network. Two interested and qualified candidates were identified for consideration.

b) Proposed guideline for annual funding

- Kathleen Landauer has submitted a contract notification to NASA and had approval for the summary of activities to be coordinated through the regional networks, which was developed by John Townshend. This contract is for USD 10K annual funding for activities in two networks in SE Asia and Africa.
- Concerns were raised about funding for other regional networks. The participants agreed that guidelines should be developed to assist the regional networks in preparation of proposals. As had been agreed during the October teleconference, each regional network should get base funding of USD 10 K per annum.
- Garik Gutman requested that he be notified when proposals are sent to NASA.
- Chris Justice and Michael Brady emphasized the need to develop and provide guidelines to the regional networks for use in preparing proposals for the GOF-C-GOLD funds.
- Chris Justice stated that there is also a need to develop a support plan for the regional networks, which would include fund raising from sources outside of GOF-C-GOLD. The plan should include a proposal, which can be sent to funding organizations.
- David Skole has submitted a proposal under the Regional Cooperative Network programme (RCN) for assistance to the SE Asia regional network. The NSF is reviewing the proposal, which would provide the SE Asia network with USD 400 K funding, starting in January for three years. Also, the University of Dakar in Senegal has received START programme funding for USD 20 K. Contact person is Sulliman Wad. A West Africa Regional Network initiation meeting will be held between January and April 2005. The objective is to have key scientists plan activities for the network. Kathleen Landauer will try and get a copy of the RCN proposal that is under review at NSF.
- It was agreed that a working group be formed to develop plans and proposals for regional network funding and support. Initially, the working group includes Kathleen Landauer, Michael Brady and Murugi Larsen.

c) Survey of network representatives for STB meeting

- Murugi Larsen asked participants to provide current regional networks contacts for the STB meeting. A table has been circulated.

**4. Status of proposal for international validation activities**

- Martin Herold informed the participants that a draft proposal should be distributed at year's end. Two new developments have arisen: (1) New research initiative NELDA. Requires consideration on how best to connect these related activities. The suggestion is to have them nested within global activities. (2) To fully utilize existing samples, in situ and validation data, collaboration with GTOS and LCCS has been initiated.

**5. Website update of data services and systems**

- Murugi Larsen has sent product development tables to respective IT chairs for them to insert URL addresses of GOF-C-GOLD compliant products. The website data section will be updated when the tables are completed. CEOS has a report titled, "Global Environmental Databases from CEOS Agencies" posted on their site: <http://www.isprs.org/istanbul2004/comm4/papers/449.pdf>, which is a comprehensive list of EO satellites, sponsoring agencies, data products and access means.
- Chris Justice responded to a recent request from GTOS to confirm the 16 variables they identified as relevant to GOF-C-GOLD. These are part of the 119 variables used in the TEMS database ([http://www.fao.org/gtos/tems/variable\\_list.jsp](http://www.fao.org/gtos/tems/variable_list.jsp)).

**6. Reports on other upcoming meetings and workshops**

a) Pan American wildland fire conference, Costa Rica, 21-24 October 2004

- Johann Goldammer informed the participants that the conference endorsed the regional fire networking concepts, especially by representatives from USA and Canada. The endorsement was further emphasized during the ASEAN Ministerial meeting in Hanoi. The next regional wildland fire conference will be held in Central Asia starting tomorrow. Representatives of all networks will then meet in Freiberg from 3-4 December, with the objective of preparing recommendations for the FAO Ministerial Meeting 14 March

2005 (wildland fire is a major agenda item). During the Freiberg meeting Johann will brief participants on GOFC-GOLD activities. The German Space Agency has been invited to this meeting to present innovations in fire and fire emission characterization.

- Chris Justice will send a summary on regional networks needs to Johann Goldammer for presentation at the Freiberg and ministerial meetings.
  - b) Northern Eurasian Fire Network Workshop, 17 November 2004
    - Ivan Csiszar described the positive results of the fire workshop on the second day. During the plenary session both Ivan Csiszar and Olga Krankina gave an overview on Fire IT and Land Cover IT activities, respectively. Russia is taking a lead in the network on fire observations. There is some emerging collaboration, e.g. Mongolia and Russia dealing with border issues. A workshop report is forthcoming.
    - Ivan Csiszar will send Johann contacts in Kazakhstan.
    - Johann Goldammer will send Garik Gutman contact information on participants attending the Central Asia meeting.
  - c) S. America Network (REDLATIF) Fire Meeting, 29-30 November 2004
    - Chris Justice reported that they have 30–35 participants for the meeting. He will report on meeting results.
    - David Skole explained that the lack of GOFC-GOLD land cover IT activities in S. America has been due to presence of other large campaigns. There is now a need to work more on network land cover activities. This issue should be discussed during the STB meeting during the session on regional networks.
    - Chris Schmullius will look into the land cover observatory and the European connections in S.A. e.g. inclusion of CORINE and European Environmental Agency (EEA).
    - Alan Belward agreed that European land cover activities are embedded in CORINE process and therefore need to include the EEA.
  - d) Annual Fire IT meeting, Montreal, 7-9 February 2005
    - Chris Justice reported that they have about 35 confirmations and the meeting will proceed as planned. Chris Justice and Ivan Csiszar will work closely with the Project Office to organize the event.
  - e) Regional GOFC NERIN workshop, June 2005, St. Petersburg
    - Olga Krankina held meetings while in Moscow in regards to the workshop. Russians are supportive. The Russian Academy of Science will support 10 participants, but have problems paying for registration. GOFC-GOLD is asked to assist with this cost. Still need USD 10K for the meeting.
  - f) Panel submission at Open Meeting 2005 with integrated LUCC final conference, 9-13 October 2005, Bonn <http://www.geo.ucl.ac.be/LUCC/lucc.html>
    - Martin Herold has six confirmations from JRC, IGOS/IGOL, GOFC-GOLD, GTOS/GLCN, ESA and CEOS on participation and presentation at the proposed panel on Global Land Cover Observations: International Strategies and Implementation. Abstracts will be required from panel participants.
    - Martin Herold will provide updates on panel development.
- 7. Any other business**
- a) International Conference on LCLUC Processes in the NE Asia Region, 2-5 February 2005, Harbin, China
    - David Skole clarified that this meeting was being organized by his colleague Jiaguo Qi. The meeting will advance GOFC-GOLD and NEESPI activities in North East Asia Region.
    - Garik Gutman added that this is a regional NEESPI meeting being organized by a local institution, Heilongjiang Bureau of Surveying and Mapping and Chinese Academy of Science.
    - Olga Krankina observed that it is important to hold such a meeting in this region. She will attend on behalf of GOFC NERIN. The main aim is to take an inventory of ongoing activities in the region, which will also be useful for the upcoming St. Petersburg meeting.
    - Michael Brady suggested that a representative from this meeting should also attend the East Asia regional network discussions at the upcoming STB meeting in Beijing.

- b) GEOSS Plenary Meeting 29-30 November, 2004 Ottawa, Canada
  - Alan Belward stated that GEO implementation plan relies on information already published, which includes IGOSP and many GOF-C-GOLD reports on Fire and Land Cover.
  - David Skole informed the participants that the US government has made the GEOSS a high priority.
- c) Next meeting will be held on 16 December 2004.