

GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 16th December 2004

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

Highlights and Action Items

- Third STB meeting will be held on **19-22 April 2005**, Beijing *New*
- Proposed GTOS steering committee meeting: 12th to 13th April 2005, Rome *New*
- John Townshend and Chris Justice to provide URLs for Land Cover and Fire, respectively for the product tables *Outstanding*
- Martin Herold to circulate updates in January 2005 on proposed conference panel on Global Land Cover Observations: International Strategies and Implementation *Outstanding*
- Michael Brady to circulate the list of STB meeting participants *Outstanding*
- John Townshend to respond to letter of inquiry from START *New*
- Reuben Sessa to conduct a survey on visits to the GOFC-GOLD website *New*
- Alan Belward to provide update on the approval and requirements of GCOS Implementation Plan *New*
- John Townshend to draft letter to offer GOFC-GOLD participation in Implementation Plan *New*
- Kathleen Landauer to confirm START funds available for STB travel *New*
- Implementation Teams to send summary reports to John Townshend in March 05 for STB preparation *New*
- Garik Gutman to circulate information on the Harbin, China meeting *New*

Details

1. Review of action items from previous meeting

- Survey Excomm for new STB meeting dates: All participants agreed that the next STB meeting should be from 19th to 22nd April 2005, Beijing, China
- Kathleen has contacted David Skole to obtain a copy of RCN proposal for SE Asia regional networks under review at NSF.
- Chris Justice sent Johann Goldammer a summary on regional networks activities.
- Murugi Larsen has received some contacts at regional networks (Miombo and OSFAC) for upcoming STB meeting.
- IT co-chairs to insert URL addresses of GOFC-GOLD compliant products in development tables: Chris Schmullius has sent a table on SIBERIA II. John Townshend explained that the URLs to be inserted under the development stage headings of the tables would include references to map products, as well as to technical documents (e.g., CalVal methods).

2. Results of GTOS monthly meeting

- Reuben Sessa mentioned that the GTOS teleconference was held on 10 December 2004 and that minutes have been circulated with action items highlighted. The proposed date for the GTOS steering committee meeting is 12th to 13th April 2005 in Rome. There were suggestions that these dates be changed due to the STB meeting, which is to be held a week after.
- Reuben will conduct a survey on visits to GOFC website.
- Status of GCOS Implementation Plan and role of GOFC-GOLD: The IP can be found at: [http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/Implementation_Plan_\(GCOS\).pdf](http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/Implementation_Plan_(GCOS).pdf). Alan Belward does not yet know if the IP has been approved. There are 20 action items, including those involving GOFC-GOLD. WMO and FAO have established the working principles for a technical commission. (This might be similar to the intergovernmental technical commission (JCOM) between IOC and WMO,

which sets mandatory standards and guidelines on Oceanographic measurements.

<http://ioc.unesco.org/goos/jcomm.htm>) Similar mandatory guidelines are needed for terrestrial reporting. Fire products are being compared, but no one is formerly comparing land cover products. GOFC-GOLD can take a lead to help identify institutional responsibility in guaranteeing land cover and fire products. These issues will be addressed once the implementation plan is approved (Alan is trying to find out if it has been approved). GOFC-GOLD and TOPC have to take a lead on this process. John Townshend suggested that GOFC should send an official letter to offer participation, but cautioned that the JCOMM will be a new and more formal working environment for GOFC than experienced to date.

3. STB Meeting

- Invitation list and invitations: John Townshend has drafted the list of STB meeting participants. Project Office will send out the list for comments.
- Funding, programme, other logistics: Michael Brady informed the meeting that the Chinese hosts have agreed with new date and will provide a venue and funding support. GTOS and CFS funding have been approved. He asked Kathleen Landauer if START can provide funds for travel. Invitations will be issued soon.
- Preparation activities – IT reports, regional networks reports, strategy document: John Townshend suggested that ITs provide him with brief reports beforehand (recent achievements, ongoing activities, linkages to networks and key new priorities, etc.). He would then prepare an overall synthesis of GOFC status and would distribute ahead of time for review. A single presentation by him on previous activities will allow more time to be spent at the meeting on forward looking matters. The regional networks should provide brief reports and be allowed to present their work on day-three.

4. Support for regional networks

- Status of South American network – attend STB meeting: Chris Justice informed the meeting that there were two Latin America representatives, but no regional network representatives.
- Continuation of START funding: Kathleen Landauer stated that the current contract between GOFC and START will be expiring in July 2005. The current contract was prepared in consultation with John Townshend, Chris Justice and David Skole. For the renewal of the contract, START has sent a letter to John Townshend requesting an expression of interest from GOFC to continue START support. In the future, funding will focus on strengthening the regional networks. A pilot project has been started with funding to SE Asia and Southern Africa to support network development. Draft contracts for \$10K have been sent to the two regional networks, waiting for their response.

It was emphasized that the regional networks do not have many resources and the funding provides seed money to facilitate network development activities (e.g., annual meetings, websites, info, etc.)

Chris Justice expressed concern that procedure that should be used to ensure that proposals for funding are distributed to organizations, which are interested in supporting development work. If asking for funding from NASA, we need to identify their funding focus.

Olga Krankina will submit a funding request for the St. Petersburg meeting to START. There is a possibility of GTOS funding the St. Petersburg meeting. Michael Brady reminded the group of the guidelines distributed earlier for meeting planning and funding.

The Project Office has drafted funding and expense guidelines for GOFC-GOLD meetings and workshops. The guidelines conform to Government of Canada and START requirements.

5. Status of proposal for international validation activities

- Martin Herold informed the meeting that the proposal has been completed and is in review. The second phase of the review will be by GOFC-GOLD, especially the regional networks.

6. Reports on other meetings and workshops

- GEO Meeting, 27th November to 1st December 2004, Ottawa, Canada: Michael Brady mentioned that GTOS was not able to attend the meeting. Rueben Sessa mentioned that Jeff Tschirley will distribute a report on FAO input to GEOSS.
- S. America Network (REDLATIF) Fire Meeting, 29 to 30 November 2004: Chris Justice mentioned that the meeting went well and achieved its objectives. There will be a strong emphasis on validation and calibration of burnt areas in Latin American regions. A report on the meeting will be produced.
- International Conference on Land-Cover and Land-Use Change Processes in North East Asia Region, 2 to 5 February 2005, Harbin, China: Garik Gutman will attend the meeting and stated that the preparations were going well. He will circulate information on the Harbin meeting.
- GFMC/GOFC meetings: Johann Goldammer briefed the meeting on the UN Advisory Group on Wildland Fire meeting held in early December in Freiburg. The meeting went well and recommendations were developed that will be presented to UN ministries meeting in March 2005 at FAO Rome and also at the ministries segment UN forum on forests in May 2005. The overall goal is to work on the framework for development of an international wildland fire accord. Johann Goldammer added that they were still holding Global Wildland Fire Network regional meetings, these are posted on the GFMC website at: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/course/meeting.htm>. The next meeting will be held in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan on 17 to 18 January 2005. Johann will represent GOFC-GOLD Fire IT. He recommended that Dr. Jun-ichi Kudoh of Tohoku University would be a good contact for the Fire IT in Japan. He would be a good candidate for the proposed GOFC Far East Asia Regional Network.
- Annual Fire IT Meeting, 7 to 9 February, Montreal, Canada: Ivan Csiszar stated that invitation letters have been sent out. A budget has been prepared and still working on the agenda. Planning is proceeding well.
- 5th International workshop on Remote Sensing and GIS Applications to Forest Fire Management: Fire Effects Assessment, 16-18 June 2005, Zaragoza, Spain: Chris Justice mentioned that this meeting is held once a year. The invitations have been sent out. Will have a joint workshop with GOFC-GOLD. A joint report with GOFC was produced for the previous meeting.

7. Any other business

- New publications to be included on website:
 1. 4th International Workshop on Remote Sensing and GIS Applications to Forest Fire Management: Fire Effects Assessment meeting: <http://www.geogra.uah.es/~earsel/report1.html>
 2. Results of the GOFC-GOLD/IGAC Workshop at the University of Maryland
 3. Gutman, G. et al (eds.) 2004. Land Change Science: Observing, Monitoring and Understanding Trajectories of Change on the Earth's Surface. Springer
- Next teleconference 20 January 2005 – to be confirmed.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!