

## **GOFC-GOLD Executive Committee Teleconference – 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2005**

Participants: Michael Brady, John Townshend, Chris Justice, Ivan Csiszar, Martin Herold, Olga Krankina, Chris Schnullius, Garik Gutman, Lucilla Spini, David Skole, Shaun Quegan, Murugi Larsen

### **Highlights and Action Items**

- Lucilla Spini has joined GTOS and will strengthen ties to international conventions *New*
- Participants list for STB meeting has been prepared with invitations to be issued shortly *New*
- Chris Justice and Ivan Csiszar to send to project office URLs for Fire product tables *Outstanding*
- Martin Herold to circulate update on proposed conference panel on global land cover observations *New*
- John Townshend to communicate with M. Maiden of NASA before responding to letter of inquiry from START *New*
- Alan Belward to provide update on the approval and requirements of GCOS Implementation Plan *Ongoing*
- John Townshend to draft a letter to offer GOFC-GOLD participation in GCOS Implementation Plan *Outstanding*
- David Skole to respond to Kathleen Landauer's request to use START funds for STB meeting by regional networks participants *New*
- Garik Gutman to provide copies of Land Change Science for STB meeting *New*
- Murugi Larsen to co-ordinate regional network activities at STB meeting *New*
- Martin Herold to provide an update on the proposal for international validation activities *Ongoing*
- John Townshend to draft a statement in regards to the anticipated EO gap created by Landsat 7 *New*
- Michael Brady to distribute draft outreach material *New*

### **Details**

#### **1. GTOS matters**

- Lucilla Spini introduced herself to the ExComm. She joined GTOS recently from UNESCO and will strengthen GTOS ties to international conventions, including biodiversity, desertification and climate change. She will also work on matters of the GTOS Steering Committee.
- Nominations for GTOS Steering Committee: Lucilla Spini informed the meeting that the nominations will be finalized by mid February. Arrangements are ongoing. She will check if there is a conflict with the GEOSS 7 meeting in Geneva. John Townshend will ask GEOSS 7 organizers to confirm the dates for their meeting.
- Reuben Sessa to conduct a survey on visits to the GOFC-GOLD website: For technical reasons GTOS could not conduct a survey only for GOFC-GOLD website at the moment. A procedure must be developed to separately survey GOFC-GOLD and GTOS websites.

#### **2. STB meeting**

- Finalize invitation list: John Townshend and Michael Brady jointly organizing the STB meeting. Based on inputs from the ExComm a list of participants has been prepared. Invitation letters will be sent out soon through the project office. Still trying to get nominations for Russia and South America. Chris Schnullius and Olga Krankina were asked for names from Russian. Chris Justice stated that it is premature to include South America.
- Funding, terms of reference, programme, other logistics: Michael Brady stated that we may have sufficient travel funds from CFS, START and GTOS, also including contribution from the Chinese, who have confirmed that they will co-host the meeting. At present we have not identified who will

require funding. The programme will be sent out once finalized. John Townshend is updating the STB terms of reference created during the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Have not changed the substance only updated the content. The programme will be circulated once finalized. Kathleen Landauer to confirm with IT Chairs whether START funds for regional networks can be used for STB travel. Chris Justice has agreed. David Skole will respond. John Townshend to provide a final comment on funding. Michael Brady has prepared a draft budget for meeting and will circulate once START funds are confirmed. It was agreed that Murugi Larsen will coordinate the regional network activities at the meeting.

- Preparation activities – IT reports, RN reports, strategy document:

Fire IT will hold a review and planning meeting at Montreal, 7-9 February 2005

It was agreed that the regional networks will report on their plans and activities. Murugi Larsen will co-ordinate the presentations. The following tentative agenda was agreed:

- a. Introduction; new regional networks to be introduced by David Skole and Chris Justice
- b. Regional network presentations (20 minutes with 10 minutes for discussion). Should report on progress since last meeting; update of recent activities; outline on future plans, constraints of achieving their goals and inter-network interactions. It was agreed that a format that is uniform to all regional networks should be used. Refer to IT goals and regional networks agenda.
- c. Panel discussion
- d. Conclusions; Compare IT goals and regional network agendas; identify common needs; summarize plans

John Townshend and Chris Schmuilius have sent product URLs to the project office for the progress tables in strategy document. Chris Justice and Ivan Csiszar will send URLs soon. John Townshend's presentation at a recent NASA LULUC meeting can be used as a guideline to the kind of presentations required for the STB meeting.

Michael Brady will be at the University of Maryland in mid February for STB preparations with John Townshend, Chris Justice and Ivan Csiszar.

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

- Continuation of START funding: Kathleen Landauer is seeking an extension of existing (to July 05) funding programme. Before responding to letter of inquiry from START, John Townshend will discuss funding possibilities with Martha Maiden. Garik Gutman stated that NASA will announce solicited proposals by the end of this month. Garik Gutman will check with Martha Maiden in regards to the status of the GOFc proposal.
- Book Purchase: Garik Gutman offered to provide 30 copies of **Land Change Science. Observing, Monitoring and Understanding Trajectories of Change on the Earth's Surface Series: [Remote Sensing and Digital Image Processing](#)**, Vol. 6 Gutman, G.; Janetos, A.C.; Justice, C.O.; Moran, E.F.; Mustard, J.F.; Rindfuss, R.R.; Skole, D.; Turner II, B.L.; Cochrane, M.A. (Eds.) 2004. Books will be distributed to STB attendees by GOFc-GOLD chair's office and project office.
- Endorsement of expense guidelines for meetings and workshops: Michael Brady explained that expense guidelines have been prepared for the use of CFS and START funds for GOFc-GOLD meetings and workshops. Guidelines are being tested at the Fire IT meeting and will be circulated to ExComm afterwards. Guidelines will be adjusted to include FAO requirements for upcoming STB meeting.

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

- Martin Herold reported that the proposal is still in review with the CEOS group. GOFc-GOLD and CEOS initiatives are mentioned in the proposal. He will give an update during the next

teleconference. John Townshend asked if anyone from GOF-C-GOLD will attend the joint CEOS/WGCV/WGISS meeting in Cordoba in March. Martin Herold will check with Jeff Morisette and Curtis Woodcock if they can represent GOF-C-GOLD. There will be information in the near future on the validation exercise of continuous fields that Mark Hansen of S. Dakota is organizing. Martin Herold is the contact.

## **5. Reports on other meetings and workshops**

- International Conference on Land-Cover and Land-Use Change Processes in North East Asia Region, 2-5 February, 2005, Harbin, China: David Skole will not be attending this meeting and has little information on it. Garik Gutman will be attending and will report on the results. Some of the participants to this meeting will be nominated to participate in the STB meeting.
- GFMC/GOF-C meetings: See GFMC website for details.
- Annual Fire IT meeting, Montreal, 7-9 February 2005: Ivan Csiszar stated that the planning was going well. Unfortunately, no one from China will attend because of their New Year celebrations. Chris Justice added that a report will be produced for the STB meeting. There is a possibility of a publication from this meeting.
- Northern Eurasia Regional Network Workshop, 18-19 June 2005, St Petersburg: Olga Krankina informed the meeting that funding is available with the balance to be provided by GOF-C-GOLD project office. The agenda is in preparation and is in support of Land Cover IT program. Fire will be represented but the main focus will be land cover. The Russian organizing committee has shown interest in participating in the planned network project, NELDA. Garik Gutman suggested that the workshop title be changed to reflect more than the boreal region.
- 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Emilio Chuvieco has informed him that they have received over 60 abstracts. This fire group meets once a year.
- 6th Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community, 9-13 October 2005, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany: Martin Herold is waiting for the acceptance of the GOF-C-GOLD panel request then he will ask for abstracts. He has received comments on the panel topics from executive committee members.
- Planned Land Cover meetings: David Skole mentioned that there are meetings planned this year in the West Africa region to be held in Dakar, Senegal in May, and in SE Asia by SEARRIN.

## **6. Any other business**

- A gap in EO will occur between the anticipated early shut down of Landsat 7 and the launch of NPOESS Landsat. John Townshend described two main issues to be addressed: 1) how can we use existing data as a partial bridge until NPOESS is launched and 2) what earth observation products do we want? GOF-C-GOLD should represent the EO community by generating a statement specifying the products that are needed. It was agreed that there is an urgent need to prepare a GOF-C requirement statement before the STB meeting. During the STB meeting this issue will also be discussed and long term goals and needs formulated. John Townshend will lead the development of the statement.
- Outreach material: Michael Brady mentioned that the project office has funding to prepare outreach materials such as folder, brochures and posters. The project office will circulate draft products for comments. Martin Herold will provide promotional materials for land cover.
- Next teleconference to be confirmed for 24 February 2005.