Welcome to the 9th edition of the GlobCover newsletter. This is a particular Issue, because GlobCover Global Land Cover map completes a full year of free-online access. It was October 2008 when the validated GlobCover Land Cover product was made freely available, through the dedicated FTP link of IONIA GlobCover Access Tool (GCAT: www.esa.int/due/ionia/globcover/).

Therefore in this issue we report some statistics and important findings regarding the visit traffic of the IONIA GlobCover site and its registration database. It is worth to mention that the GCAT database contains approximately 5000 registered users, while more than 8200 unique users have visited the FTP link to download the GlobCover Land Cover map (last update: 7th October 2009). This shows the growing interest of the user community for the GlobCover products and the large impact of the project.

We also introduce the GlobCover User’s Corner, which is an important addition. We decided to exploit our diverse user-tank by giving them the chance to talk about their work and how GlobCover has been integrated on it. This interaction is useful because it gives us also the chance to keep a record of their feedback, in order to improve our future initiatives.

Talking about future initiatives, we also welcome you to read the article on the GlobCorine project, whose Final Meeting will take place on 17th of November 2009, in Copenhagen (EEA).

Last but not least we report on important news that are coming from Frascati/Italy, regarding the successful installation of the GlobCover system in ESRIN and the first new products that will be available in the beginning of the new year.

With these words, we wish you a pleasant Autumn.

The ESA GLOBCOVER TEAM

October 2009
**GlobCover: One year of free-online access**

The GlobCover Global Land Cover product is available online for 12 months. It was October 2008 when the map has been published through a free-access FTP site of Ionia server (www.esa.int/due/ionia/globcover/), while access to the MERIS FR mosaics is still provided with a simple registration. During this year some interesting statistics have been extracted from our user-database. Currently, the Ionia GCAT Database includes approximately **5000 registered users** (last update: 7th October 2009).

![Number of downloads of GlobCover Land Cover map since October 2008.](image)

As regards country statistics, almost 23% of the registered users claimed that they are coming from Germany, while Brazilian users (including many University students, lecturers, researches etc.) are in the second place with 19%. Other countries that are well-represented in our User Database are (more in Figure 2): the United States (10%), Spain (4%), United Kingdom (3.25%) etc.

The Global Land Cover Map is available through the FTP site, which by now has **8211 download hits from different IP addresses**. Figure 1 shows the number of visitors that used the open-access FTP site to download the GlobCover LC map. The interest for the GlobCover LC map is strong and is coming not only from university users and researchers. The ESA GlobCover Team maintains frequent interaction with users that cover a large variety of fields and sectors as: remote sensing, GIS and cartographic companies, international organisations, governmental bodies and institutes, think tanks, museums, nature conservation bodies etc. This actually confirms the wide usability and application of global land cover maps and the need to improve them.

Particular emphasis has to be given in the fact that the GLOBCOVER V2 Land Cover map is more than a MERIS map; it is an automated global classification cumulative knowledge process and as such the project is a unique demonstration which defines the framework for possible future operational projects.
The User’s Corner

The GlobCover project evolved in close contact with the user and land cover expert community. This interface ensured that the resulting products are ‘fit for purpose’ and that they will be further used and exploited by the user community. The consortium recognised the importance of the aforementioned close co-operation; taking into account many times users’ comments and recommendations.

Based on the wide user-tank that GlobCover has established so far, in this issue we introduce the User’s Corner. This is a unique chance to meet better the experts that are using the GlobCover product, giving them the opportunity to talk about their work and how GlobCover contributed in it.

In this Issue, we acknowledge the kind contribution of Mrs. Lauriane Boisrobert who accepted to answer our questions and provide us with her feedback on GlobCover. Lauriane is working as a Geographic Information Systems Research Analyst at the World Resources Institute in Washington DC.

1. How important was GlobCover for your work?

GlobCover is the preferred land cover data we use for mapping at global extent and for the Central Africa region. We have been using it primarily as a base map in all our Central Africa Atlases since March 2009.

2. Why you chose GlobCover for your work?

Globcover’s spatial resolution is the best available at global scale, land cover classes are more detailed than GLC2000. It is a well-known, more and more used dataset among conservationists and environmentalists.

3. How did you integrate GlobCover in your work?

For now, we have used it as a land cover underlying base map in all our atlases:


Three more atlases will be published in 2010 (Republic of Congo and Cameroon and DRC).

4. How did you learn about GlobCover?

Through colleagues (GIS and conservationist circle)
**News & Highlights**

**GlobCover in Times Atlas**

GlobCover has been selected by HarperCollins Maps to be presented in one of the most prestigious printed Atlases, to show the spatial variability and extend of the world's land cover. The recently published *The Times Concise Atlas of the World* and the new *Times Compact Atlas of the World* (see image below) include snapshots of the GlobCover World Land Cover image.

Photo: From The Times Compact Atlas of the World

**Box 1:**

**GlobCover 2009**

The new GlobCover 2009 process is under development in ESRIN (see article in Page 5). Initial results from the geolocation, orthorectification, atmospheric correction, cloud screening and composition performed well above specific tiles. Here we present an example from a bi-weekly composite of January 2009 (first two weeks), above the area of Valencia (Spain). The white spots are successfully masked clouds (or inland water).
ESRIN welcomes the GlobCover system

During the previous months, the GlobCover project was completed with the shipment of all the GlobCover system’s parts to Frascati, in the establishment of ESRIN. However, this marked the beginning of a new period for GlobCover: a period full of work towards the re-installation and functional implementation of the GlobCover system in ESRIN. The hardware that arrived in ESRIN was checked and updated with new parts. Initial tests on the code and the production environment have been successfully completed during the summer and the new production phase has been already started. The first GlobCover Tiles from January 2009 are currently under validation.

Priority will be given to the production of a complete 2009 product set of one yearly and six bi-monthly global mosaics. The new system follows the same architecture of the first GlobCover system (see Figure 3) and some initial tests on the code have been already successfully completed.

GlobCorine: 1st Progress Meeting

The 1st Progress Meeting of the GlobCorine project took place in ESRIN on the 29th of June 2009. The implementation team from Université catholique de Louvain (UCL), as well as partners from EEA and contributors from ETC-LUSI team (GISAT) were gathered in ESRIN’s establishment to track the progress of the project and discuss relevant issues.

GlobCorine is part of the Data User Element (DUE) Programme and aims to demonstrate an automatic service that can generate in a consistent way a land cover / land use map and a land change indicator, based on a CLC-compatible legend.

The implementation team from UCL presented an overview of the project’s progress, the evolution of the classification status, the development of the change detection scheme and the production environment of the GlobCorine system.

The GISAT team presented results on their class discrimination analysis on MERIS data, while Jean-Louis Weber from EEA described the current status on EEA with respect to the Environmental and Land Accounting and provided feedback and potential needs from GlobCorine.

Initial results of the project have been presented during the 33rd International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment in Stresa-Italy (Bontemps et al., 2009). Partners and contributors will meet again on 17th of November in Copenhagen (EEA) for the final meeting of the project.

Conferences & events

UNITED NATIONS
CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFERENCE
DEC 7 - DEC 18
2009

http://en.cop15.dk/

3rd Workshop of the
EARSel Special Interest Group on Land Use and Land Cover
25 - 27 November 2009, Bonn, Germany

http://www.zfi.uni-bonn.de/earsel/earsel.html