GLOBCOVER 2009
The new global map is available
http://due.esrin.esa.int/globcover/
Christmas time is almost here and the ESA GlobCover team is happy to offer a small gift to the land cover community. **GlobCover 2009** – the new global land cover map in a spatial resolution of 300 meters is **ready** and has just been **released**. Based totally on MERIS FR data acquired through 2009 and processed by the GlobCover system, GlobCover 2009 is the most recent and most detailed global land cover map.

The new map is the result of the successful cooperation of ESA with Université Catholique de Louvain. So if you are working on any activity relevant with land cover information, you shouldn’t miss to download the product from ESA’s Ionia server ([http://ionia1.esrin.esa.int/](http://ionia1.esrin.esa.int/)). More details are given in the main article of page 2.

We wish you a happy and constructive New Year!

The ESA GlobCover Team

*December 2010*

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**Topics**

Globcover 2009 – The new global map........................................... 2

News................................................................. 4

GlobCorine 2009.......................................................... 5

GlobCover Stories........................................................ 6
**GlobCover 2009** has just been released by ESA. The new map, made from MERIS FR 2009 data, is the most recent and most detailed global land cover product. The project is based on resources and experience gained during the implementation of the first GlobCover map. The successful cooperation of ESA-ESRIN with Université Catholique de Louvain concluded with the provision of a global product in the limited time-frame of less than one year. The team demonstrated that frequent updates of global products in a consistent and systematic way is possible. The product has been released through the Ionia GlobCover site on [http://ionia1.esrin.esa.int/](http://ionia1.esrin.esa.int/) and is freely available to the user community without any charge or subscription.

continue in page 3 ->
The new 2009 map retains the same legend as the previously released GlobCover map: 23 land cover classes based on FAO’s Land Cover Classification System (LCCS), in order to be consistent and comparable. GlobCover 2009 pre-processing chain has been employed and executed in ESRIN, using MERIS FR 2009 data. The cooperation between ESA and Université Catholique de Louvain concludes successfully with the provision of the global land cover map for 2009 one year later, in 2010.

The validation exercise is will be completed during the following weeks and the validation report will be soon available for download through the Ionia server. Meanwhile the GlobCover team releases the product with a qualitative validation report, based on visual inspection.
News

GlobCover 2009 Promotion

Recent activities:
- The product has been presented in ESA, iLEAPS, EGU Joint Conference, ESA-ESRIN, 3-5 November 2010.
- Global posters of GlobCover 2009 has been distributed during the COP 16 / CMP 6 (see below).

The new GlobCover 2009 poster has been presented during the UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun-Mexico, November 29th to December 10th.

CCI Land Cover ->

The first CCI Land Cover Newsletter has been released by the implementation team.
The new Pan-European land cover map, based on 2009 MERIS FR data has been presented in ESRIN, during the final meeting of the GlobCorine project on the 17th of November 2010. Users usually ask what are the differences and connections between GlobCorine and GlobCover. GlobCorine covers the Pan-European area (thus it has a much limited geographic coverage with respect to GlobCover) and the legend has been adjusted to support the activities of the European Environment Agency (EEA). GlobCorine is based on the pre-processing module which has been prototyped and implemented during the GlobCover project, however the classification system differs from the one of GlobCover. GlobCorine has been successfully implemented by ESA and UCLouvain, with EEA as a partner. The GlobCorine 2009 map and its validation report can be downloaded from [http://ionia1.esrin.esa.int/globcorine](http://ionia1.esrin.esa.int/globcorine).
It was a conscious decision of the GlobCover Team to enable more users to speak and tell their story on the use of GlobCover. It is through this interaction that our data exploitation services can become better. We run user surveys, we send Newsletters, we improve continuously our web material, but what do users believe?

**Ms. Rocio Escobar** is a postgraduate student in the University of Geneva, in Switzerland. She performs an interdisciplinary study, with other 2 students, on the impacts of climate change on the hydrological domains of Mount Aconcagua in Argentina. They use a modeling approach to simulate the processes connecting climate and ecosystems with socio-economic activities like agriculture. ‘GlobCover data is very precise and thus very helpful to achieve the objectives of the project’, she mentions in one of her communications with our team.

But also many other users from the industry have expressed their interest in GlobCover. The community is large and various. "Using GlobCover data helps us to provide better solutions for our clients.", said **Dr Barbara Page** a Model Developer at Risk Management Solutions (RMS). “Land cover data has many applications in our organisation, from understanding how surface roughness affects extreme winds to understanding the geographical distribution of insured properties affected by flooding. The GlobCover database is really useful to us because of its consistent global coverage”, she added.

The recent release of GlobCover 2009, will bring much more stories to tell during the next year.

**Are you a student, a researcher or professional using GlobCover products? Tell your story to us:** [due@esa.int](mailto:due@esa.int).