Global Land Cover Map for 2009 - JRC hosts meeting with ESA and other partners

The final meeting of the Globcover 2009 Project of the European Space Agency (ESA) is held at the Institute for Environment and Sustainability (JRC IES) in Ispra, Italy on 9 February 2011. The GlobCover project has developed a service capable of delivering land cover maps on the basis of satellite images (observations from the 300m MERIS sensor on board the ENVISAT satellite mission). The aim of the meeting is to take stock of the strengths and the limitations of this approach, and to present the new GlobCover 2009 Map.
The JRC was deeply involved in the validation of the first GlobCover product, which was published in 2008. In 2010, the GlobCover chain was run by ESA and the Université Catholique de Louvain in order to produce bimonthly and annual MERIS\(^1\) FRS\(^2\) mosaics for the year 2009 and to derive a new global land cover map from this time series of MERIS FRS 2009 mosaics. This objective of rendering the full set of GlobCover 2009 deliverables useful for science, has now been achieved; the results demonstrate the operational services provided by the developed GlobCover chain. Two JRC scientists, Dr H-J. Stibig and Dr P. Mayaux have contributed to the validation of the product on their continent of expertise (Asia and Africa).

**Further Reading**

Many scientists used the previous GlobCover map for various studies (land cover, biofuels,...). The map proved extremely relevant for further environmental and sustainability related studies, in particular in relation to the classification and validation of global land cover.

In 2008, the ESA-GlobCover 2005 project delivered to the international community the very first 300 m resolution global land cover map for 2005 as well as bimonthly and annual MERIS1 Full Resolution Full Swath (FRS) surface reflectance mosaics. The ESA-GlobCover 2005 project, carried out by an international consortium, started in April 2005 and relied on very rich feedback and comments from a larger partnership including end users belonging to international institutions (the European Commissions Joint Research Centre (JRC), the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Observation for Forest and Land Cover Dynamics, a project of the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) program (GOFC-GOLD) and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) in addition to ESA’s internal assessment. The ESA-GlobCover 2005 deliverables clearly demonstrated the possibility to develop an automated service, from the technical level imagery to the final land cover map, including all the pre-processing steps and the classification process.

- More detail on the [ESA web site](http://envisat.esa.int).
- Earlier phase of GlobCover report: [Products Description and Validation Report](http://envisat.esa.int).

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\(^1\): MERIS = Medium Resolution Imaging Spectrometer Instrument (see [http://envisat.esa.int](http://envisat.esa.int)).

\(^2\): MERIS FRS mosaics means space born mosaics achieved with MERIS' Full Resolution Swath.