GSE FM *newsletter*

Dear Reader

I am happy to introduce the eighth issue of the GSE FM newsletter. I wish you a relaxing summer break and look forward to (hopefully) meeting you at the forthcoming ForestSat Conference in September.

With kind regards, Stefanie Linser (Austrian Environment Agency, UEB Chair).

ForestSat2010 NEWS
By Stefanie Linser (Environment Agency Austria), Tim Green (European Forest Institute)

GSE FM user activities will be represented at the ForestSat2010 conference in Lugo, Spain 7-9 September. http://forestsat2010.usc.es/en/index.html

In the main programme there will be a presentation on user involvement in GSE FM (scheduled for Tuesday 7 September). There will also be a number of parallel sessions including a GMES forest user session (also scheduled for Tuesday 7 September).

The main aim of this session will be to present current and ongoing GMES Forest user activities in order to raise awareness on the GMES programme and the respective roles and activities of the GMES Forest User Platforms. This will be followed by an open discussion on how to expand the user involvement in these platforms, with further information on benefits of active participation, possibilities for obtaining additional funding, and a critical review of additional items that GMES Forest users would like to experience, etc.

GSE FM web-site and services catalogue
By Tim Green (EFI), Frank Fell (Informus), Gernot Ramminger (GAF AG)

The web-site of GSE FM has been redesigned. Part of this redesign has been a migration of the GSE FM services catalogue to the new web-pages. The catalogue is now hosted by GAF AG and can be found under the Portfolio section. The catalogue provides access to: (1) general information on the services offered by GSE FM; (2) data sheets for all services already provided to users; (3) access to GSE-FM documents and data products. Information products can be searched by area, service type, service provider, user and keywords. Search results are represented through markers or polygons on a Google Maps window.

GSE FM services catalogue

The GSE FM Final Report has now been published on the GSE FM website. The report contains the following main sections: Policy and user focus; GSE FM service portfolio; Organisational approach and service network; Service deliveries and user assessment; Major achievements; Future outlook.
http://www.gmes-forest.info/content/background-info (71 Mb)

Eurisy
By Sebastian Rieder (Eurisy)

Eurisy is a European non-profit association, mandated by its members (most European space agencies, the European Space Agency, the European Commission, etc.) to anchor space to society. To reach this objective Eurisy is implementing a programme in support of potential users of satellite information and services. This programme is subdivided into three Support Initiatives addressing different user communities: (1) local and regional authorities; (2) non-space SMEs; and (3) user communities in the European neighborhood.

Eurisy raises awareness of prospective users of satellite services by contributing to and organizing conferences, workshops and other information events on request from user communities. During these events Eurisy collaborates with its partners to demonstrate the usefulness of satellite services through the exchange of end-user good practices. Furthermore, Eurisy helps enable interested potential users implement satellite services with advice and access to expert knowledge (Eurisy case-studies). In a nutshell, Eurisy strives to address prospective users who do not yet know about the usefulness of satellite services for them, to inform them and to accompany them on their way to become autonomous, operational users of satellite services, including the future GMES.

For more on Eurisy activities with user communities http://www.eurisy.org

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New FP7 project: HELM
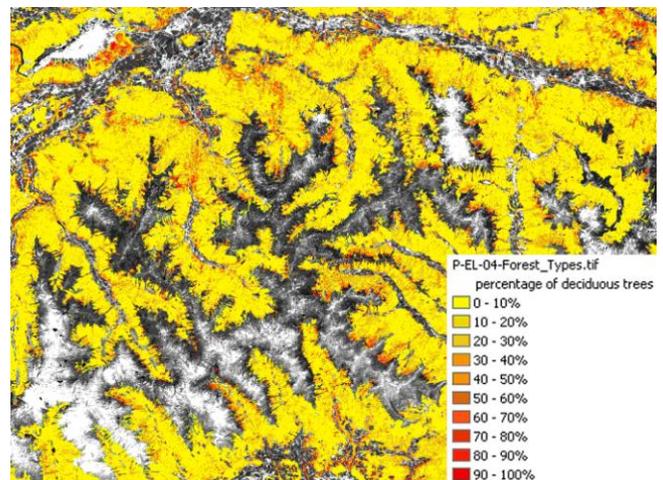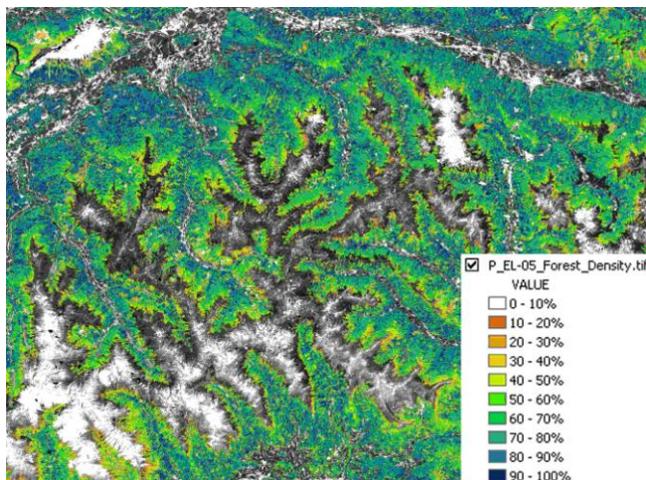*By Herbert Haubold (Environment Agency Austria)*

The Environment Agency Austria has, together with 25 participants across Europe, submitted a proposal HELM (Harmonised European Land Monitoring) to the 2010 space call. This project is currently being negotiated with the Commission and will likely start late 2010/early 2011. More information can be obtained at the preliminary project website: http://tinyurl.com/fp7helm. The HELM consortium will seek an active exchange with the European forest community. You are invited to follow HELM on Twitter: http://twitter.com/FP7HELM.

Geoland2 Update
By Markus Probeck (GAF AG), Tim Green (EFI)

The FP7-funded GMES Land core project geoland2 in consultation with EEA, EIONET and mandated European users is following up on previous GSE FM activities. geoland2 undertakes to develop "sustainable operational service" in the GMES Land domain. The sustainable aspect requires that the information needs have to be long-term and that the technical specifications conform to the existing requirements from policies and user organizations, while being flexible enough to adopt new scientific and technical developments and adapt to evolving policy and user requirements. The operational aspect means that the service has to be able to deliver high quality products in a timely manner across a vast service area spanning very different ecological conditions.

Currently, there is a joint effort in geoland2 to re-focus the perimeter of the whole continental LMCS component, which implies the development of 5-6 pixel-based, high-resolution thematic land use / land cover Layers (HR Layers) with quantitative information. The focus currently is on pan-European HR Layers for Impervious Areas, Forest, Water, Grasslands and Wetlands. All products shall be produced at 20 meter pixel resolution, and will be validated on a 1 hectare basis. The geoland2 Forest Team is embedded in these activities by developing and testing an integrated HR Forest Layer, comprising information on Forest Crown Cover Density, Forest Types (broadleaf, coniferous and mixed forest) and Forest Area Change.

A first example of the HR Forest Layer products as derived for the Alpine Forest test site of geoland2. Crown Cover Density (left) and Forest Type (right) information are derived together in a consistent and pixel-based fashion. (Credits: Joanneum Research, Austria)

The 6th geoland Forum took place in Toulouse on 24-25 March 2010. Presentations can be found at http://www.gmes-geoland.info/events/presentations.php?occ_id=60

Note from editor
We hope that you find the articles in the newsletter interesting and informative. If you have ideas or materials for articles I would be happy to hear from you. Hope to see you at the ForestSat2010 conference.