Globcover global land cover map – ReadMe

This zip file contains a raster version of the Globcover global land cover map for the period from December 2004 to June 2006.

The map is in geographic coordinates in a Plate-Carrée projection (WGS84 ellipsoid). The extent of the map is given by the following coordinates:

- o Upper left corner: 90°N, 180°W
- o Lower right corner: 90°S, 180°E

Comprehensive explanatory notes of the Globcover project and products (methods, legend and validation) are summarized in a document named "GLOBCOVER_Products_Description_Validation_Report_I2.1.pdf", which can be downloaded on this ftp site.

You will find the following files within the zip file (Globcover_200412_200606_V2.2_Global.zip) in addition to this "ReadMe" file:

1. GLOBCOVER_200412_200606_V2.2_Global_CLA.tif / .tif.vat.dbf

This is the full resolution data in GEOTIFF format (LZW compressed), where the ID values stand for the land cover classes values. The .tif.vat.dbf file stores the attribute table of the raster.

2. GLOBCOVER_200412_200606_V2.2_Global_CLA_QL.tif

This raster (LZW compressed GEOTIFF) indicates if the pixel has been classified from the MERIS FR time series (pixel value = 0) or from the reference land cover database used for the labelling (pixel value = 1) (see the "reference land cover database" definition in "GLOBCOVER_Products_Description_Validation_Report_I2.1.pdf").

3. Glocover_Legend.xls

The Excel file contains the legend of the global land cover map. The ID values of the GEOTIFF raster are linked with the corresponding land cover labels and RGB codes.

4. Globcover_Preview.jpg

5. Globcover_Global_Legend.lyr / .avl / .dsr

These files contain the color map of the Globcover global land cover, in an ARC/INFO format (.lyr), in an ArcView format (.avl) and in an Envi format (.dsr).

Copyright notices:

Notes for ARC users

ARC/INFO users (version 8.3 and later) can display the Globcover map in color using the .lyr legend file:

- Add the raster in ArcMap.
- Right-click on the raster and open the properties.
- Click on the symbology tab.
- Choose "unique values" as image rendering mode.
- Import the .lyr legend file which will make correspond each class to the Globcover color code.

In ArcGis, the color display requires that the user does not build pyramids when displaying the raster.

ARCVIEW users can display the Globcover map in color using the .avl legend file:

- Decompress the raster (ArcView does not support LZW compression).
- Add the raster in ArcView.
- Save the raster as "grid" and add the grid to the view.
- Double-click on the grid theme in the table of content to open the legend editor.
- Load the .avl legend file and choose as field "value". Each Globcover class is now associated with its Globcover color code.

Notes for ENVI users

ENVI users can display the Globcover map in color using the .dsr files:

- Open and load the raster in ENVI.
- In the tools menu, go to "color mapping" and select "Density Slice".
- Select the Globcover raster as input band.
- In the density slice window, go to "file" and click on "Restore Ranges".
- Load the .dsr file and apply to the Globcover map.