

# GIO land monitoring service – current status and outlook

*October 2012*

The production of the five thematic High Resolution Layers (HRL's), as part of the GIO land pan-European component is well underway.

## **Specifications of HRL's**

Detailed technical specifications (HRL definitions and product specifications for forest, imperviousness, grassland, small water-bodies and wetlands) now exist as internal GIO land documents. The GIO land team will soon publish simplified specifications and make them available for the public and for potential users of upcoming products.

## **Production of HRL's**

Full production of HRLs has now started. However, the availability of remote sensing images is not uniform and full coverage of necessary images is currently not available for all countries. Production will therefore follow image availability. We currently expect 30% of the EEA39 area to be delivered as intermediate products for verification and enhancement by the countries by the end of 2012. However delays in image availability, as well as in the streamlining phase, resulted in a slight delay in HRL production in 2012. Nevertheless, production of intermediate products is expected to be finalised during 2013 as planned.

## **Harmonisation workshops**



Country delegates, service providers and speakers at the 4th HRL harmonisation workshop held at the EEA (2-3 July 2012)

One important step in the verification and enhancement phase was to organise a series of workshops that gathered small groups of Member States with both GIO-land and European Topic Centre/Spatial Information and Analysis (ETC/SIA) staff. Country service providers also participated in the workshops. Based on verification and enhancement guidelines, and practical examples prepared by ETC/SIA, five of these

workshops were held from June to September, mostly at EEA premises in Copenhagen. The workshops proved to be a highly successful and interactive tool for the exchange of information and expertise. They also prepared the countries and service providers for the verification and enhancement phase, proving to be very valuable for establishing personal contacts between all stakeholders involved.