European Environment Agency

21 November 2014

Clarification No 2

Reference: Open call for tenders No EEA/MDI/14/010

Title: *Framework service contract for the GMES Initial Operations/Copernicus Land monitoring services – Validation of products (2 lots)*

Question 1

We are preparing an offer for the Lot 1 Framework service contract for the GMES initial Operations/Copernicus Land monitoring services – Validation of products.

One of the GIO products to be validated described within the document "ANNEX I: Framework service contract for the GMES initial Operations/Copernicus Land monitoring services – Validation of products" is the local component of Natura2000 (page 6).

I understand the aim is to validate a change detection layer of a selected set of Natura2000 sites but I am a bit puzzled since Natura2000 sites were the boundaries of such environmentally important places and their classification as SAC or SPAs but we were not familiar with the LU/LC maps within them, could you please tell us something about this.

If my perception is accurate and it is necessary to make a multi-temporal study:

-       Which would be the dates of reference of this change detection layer?

-       Would it be also possible to know where are located this selected sites?

-       Could you tell me which vector data and satellite image archives have been used to produce this layer?

This would be key information to propose a validation methodology for this particular product.

Answer 1

The work on the definition of the Copernicus local component on Natura2000 sites (N2K sites) is still in a definition phase with the Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission (DG ENV). Therefore, no detail can be provided on the final products to be expected within that component, except for the following elements:

  – the key objective of the N2K component is to provide information on change within and in the immediate surroundings of these sites using satellite imagery from the reference years 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015. The imagery is available from the ESA GMES/Copernicus Data Warehouse;

  – 3 possible options are under consideration:
  a)   either a traditional LC/LU mapping approach, similar to CLC, Urban Atlas or Riparian Zones, but with a tailored nomenclature for N2K sites, and including

change maps between time stamps; in that case the end products would be vector products;

  b) *an approach based on the automated calculation of bio-geophysical indices of various kinds, in which case the end products would be raster products;*

  c) *a combination of a) and b).*

− *production of LC/LU information over these sites, thereby using a combination of satellite imagery and existing in-situ information would be part of the production task;*

− *The choice of N2K sites is spread all over EU28, based on a subset that DG ENV will define, but in such a way that various types of N2K landscapes / ecosystems are represented.*

Question 2
Do the products to validate regarding Urban Atlas and CLC correspond to year 2012?

Answer 2
The validation work on Urban Atlas and CLC concerns the reference year 2012. This entails that these products are for the major part based on satellite imagery of the reference year 2012 +/- 1 year. Exceptional gap filling can be done on 2010 or 2014 imagery.