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Prepared by EUMETSAT
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REPORT ON THE SALGEE INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT TO THE LAND SURFACE ANALYSIS SATELLITE APPLICATIONS FACILITY ACTIVITIES

EUMETSAT has organised the First workshop on “MSG land surface applications: Drought & Fires”, held in Sofia, 7-12 September 2009. The organisation of the Workshop was initiated by the Bulgarian National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (NIMH) and supported by Land Surface Analysis Satellite Application Facility (LSA SAF) recognizing the need for strengthening the use of satellite data for land surface applications over the drought prone area of South Eastern Europe (SEE).

Action/Recommendation proposed:

CGMS XXXVIII is invited to take note of a new initiative to foster collaboration for introducing land surface products into operations.

Report on the SALGEE initiative in support to the Land Surface analysis Satellite Applications Facility activities

Scope of the Workshop: The Workshop was focused on the problem of using satellite information in drought assessment, active fire detection and the post-fire burned area mapping.

<http://info.meteo.bg/conferences/EUMETSAT07092009>.

(contact e-mail address: Julia.Stoyanova@meteo.bg)

Participants: Primary satellite data users in SEE countries, product developers and other experts from EUMETSAT, LSA SAF Consortium, NOAA/NESDIS, NASA and University of Maryland, National Meteorological and Research Institutions of Brazil, Bulgaria and Portugal, Civil Protection Authorities of Bulgaria participate in this event.

Outcome of the Workshop: As an important outcome of the Workshop discussion, the establishing of an user group was proposed in order to foster the use of satellite data and products in meteorology and climatology. This **Satellite Applications in Land surface analyses Group for Eastern Europe (SALGEE)** was formally approved by EUMETSAT in December 2009 to coordinate research and operational activities in using MSG and EPS data for quantification of land surface processes as well as to facilitate the validation and use of LSA SAF products.

SALGEE Activities and Composition: The SALGEE will contribute exchange of knowledge on using satellite data in conjunction with other available information for land surface applications. A Steering Group comprising two Co-Chairs, one from EUMETSAT, the other one from the LSA SAF Consortium and a Secretary, will manage the activities of SALGEE. The SALGEE will have as Members representatives of: EUMETSAT, the Land Surface Application Satellite Application Facility (LSA SAF) Consortium, NMHSs in Eastern Europe, NOAA and NASA. Representatives of countries from other regions of interest (e.g. Africa) could be invited to participate as agreed by the Steering Group. There is no formal commitment by being a member of the SALGEE. SALGEE will organise annual "on-site" meetings of the Steering Group and biennial international workshops to review and discuss progress in using satellite products for land surface applications.

Coming events: As a next step of SALGEE activity, the organization of the Second "MSG land surface applications: Drought & Fires" Workshop is in progress. It will be held in



Antalya, Turkey, 4-7 April 2011

where some areas of common interest between EUMETSAT, LSA SAF, NOAA and NASA in the scope of the SALGEE objectives and activities will be identified. Practical measures for improved coordination and opportunities for partners to join will be discussed.