

UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal

April 2017



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

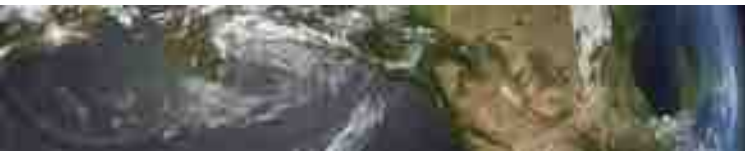
The UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal

- Serves as a Gateway to space-based information;
- Its managed by the UN-SPIDER Bonn Office;
- Preliminary version launched in 2009;
- First official version launched in 2011;
- Re-launched with several changes in January 2015;
- 7,592 content items by June 2017.



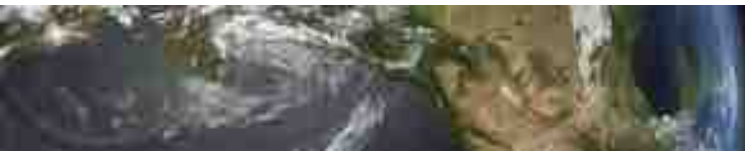
Services provided by the Portal

- News from the communities;
- Events calendar;
- Emergency support information hub;
- Information on UN-SPIDER activities;
- Information on UN-SPIDER National Focal Points; Regional Support Offices;
- Information on projects;
- ***Spanish version;***
- ***French version***



Services provided by the Portal

- Information on Emergency mechanisms;
 - Links to Data sources;
 - Links to GIS and remote sensing software;
 - Links to training opportunities;
 - Links to UN-SPIDER publications and reports;
 - Recommended Practices (step-by-step procedures)
-
- ***Spanish version;***
 - ***French version***



Social media efforts

- Strategic objective: Raise awareness, including about RSO activities, and attract users to the Portal;
- Twitter and Facebook main channels;
- Steady increase in Twitter followers (8507 – 8% year-to-year) and Facebook likes (2799 – 15% year-to-year);
- Facebook brings more visitors to KP than Twitter;
- Overall, 1.6% of all visits to KP via social media;
- Those who come from social media channels tend to engage more with the KP;
- Potential RSO support: (Re-)Share content on social media.



Logic of the content of the menu



Content compiled from different sources outside UN-SPIDER:

Content from the space community, the DRR and ER communities, etc.

Content related to UN-SPIDER:

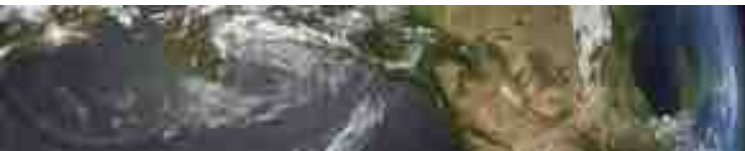
- Its advisory support
- Its networks
- Projects conducted
- News and events
- About Us (official publications)



Emergency Mechanisms

General information on existing emergency mechanisms established by space agencies and the UN:

- Copernicus GIO Emergency Mapping Service
- International Charter Space and Major Disasters
- Sentinel Asia
- SERVIR
- UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT)

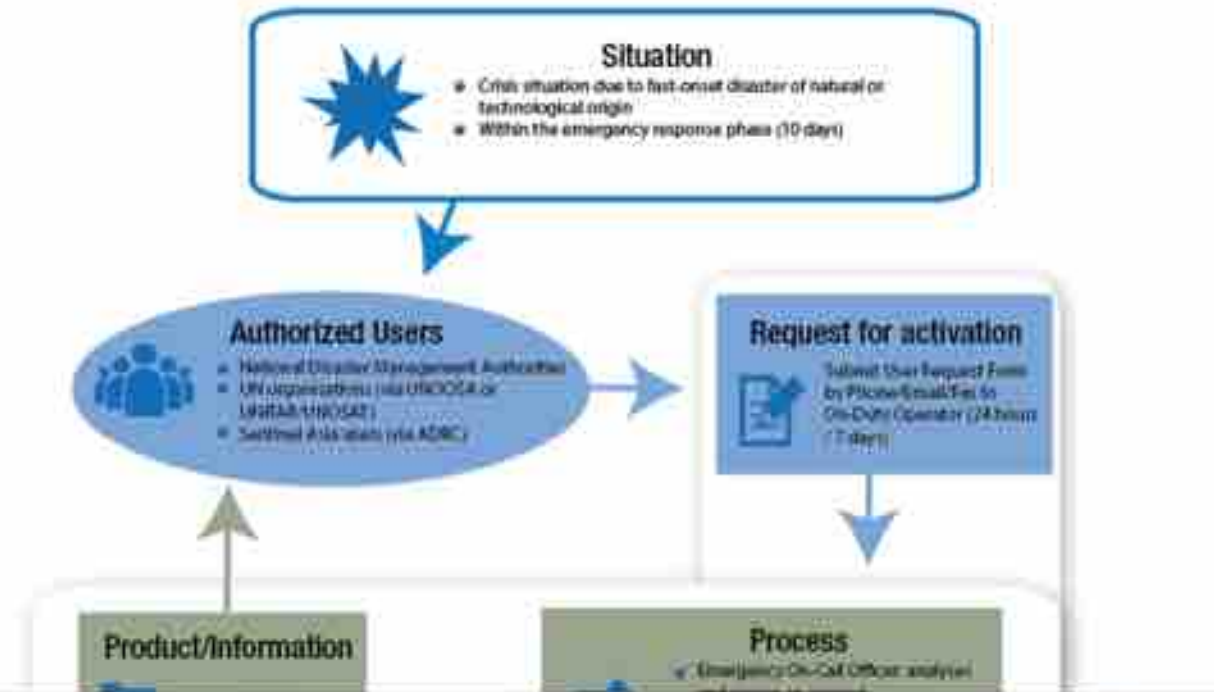




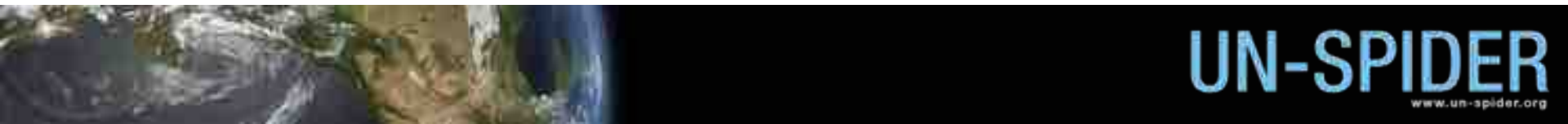
International Charter Space and Major Disasters

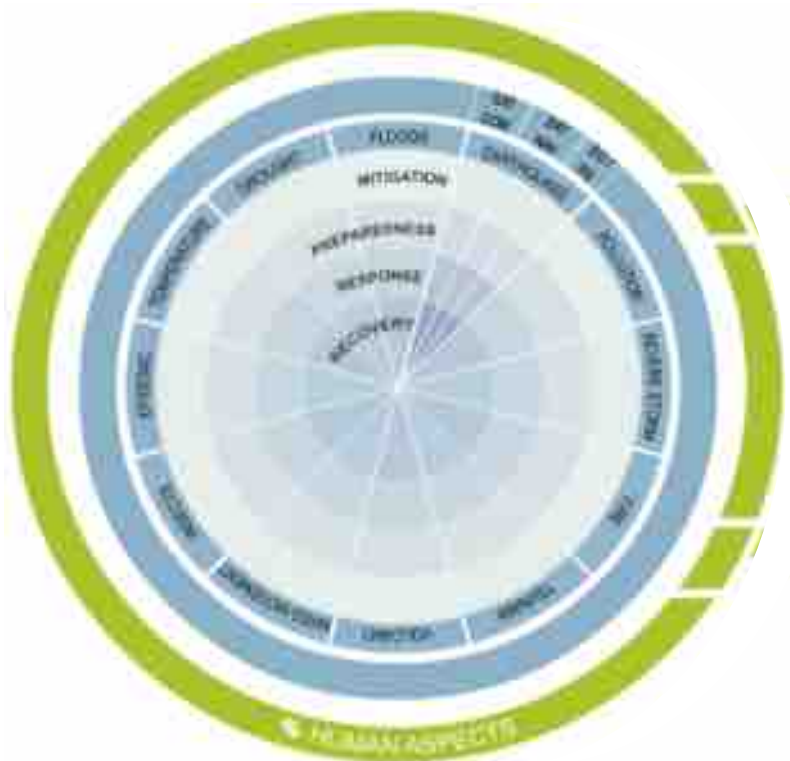
The International Charter on "Space and Major Disasters" is a worldwide collaboration among space agencies, through which satellite-derived information and products are made available to support disaster response efforts. The Charter has been operational since November 2000, and currently, the following global space agencies participate in the mechanism: ESA, CNES, CSA, NOAA, COMTEC/INPE, JAXA, USGS, UKSA & DMO, CNSA, DLR, VRSI, WPIE, ISMIRSAT, and ROSCOSMOS.

Only agencies that possess and are able to provide satellite-based Earth Observation data can be members of the International Charter. The members cooperate on a voluntary basis. Each member agency has committed resources to support the Charter by providing space-derived data and products. The members take on the role of the secretariat by initiation and act as project managers for activations. UNDOSA/UN-SPIDER and UNSTAR/UNOSAT are not formal members of the mechanism, but are authorized to request the activation of the mechanism on behalf of UN agencies, in countries affected by disasters.



Name	International Charter "Space and Major Disasters"
Year established	2000
Phases covered	Response, Recovery
Areas covered	World
Website	http://www.internationalcharter.org
Members	





- Hazard type/ Human aspects
- Disaster Cycle Phase
- Space technology

192 fields



Currently 199
different **case studies/**
research papers
in 66 fields

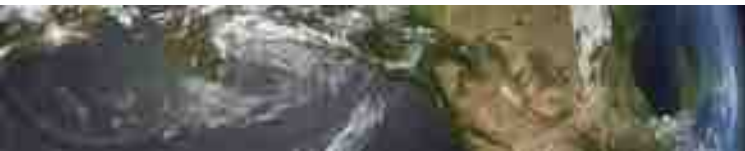


Linked to 106 **satellite sensor profiles** and 35 **providers**

Space Application Matrix: What can be done (scientific and technical perspective)



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KNOWLEDGE PORTAL

Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

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- Home
- Space Application
- Risks & Disasters**
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- Advisory Support
- Network
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- News & Events
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- Disaster Risk Management
- Emergency and Disaster Management
- The UN and Disaster Risk Management
- The UN and Disaster Management
- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Natural Hazards



UN-SPIDER Regional Meeting for LAC in Mexico, 11 – 13 July 2017

g for LAC in Mexico, 11 – 13 July 2017

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Explore the Knowledge Portal



Disaster Risk Management

When a **hazard** event (such as a drought, flood, cyclone, earthquake or tsunami – among others) strikes a community, triggering the loss of, or harm to life and the destruction or damage of infrastructure, it highlights the fact that the society and its assets are **vulnerable**, i.e. susceptible to the impacts of hazard events. In the context of **disaster-risk reduction**, the disaster makes the following facts evident:

- The geographical area where the community is settled is **exposed to such a hazard**.
- The society (including individuals) and its infrastructure, assets and other processes – as well as services which experienced damage or destruction – are **vulnerable**.



Disaster Risk

According to the terminology of UNISDR, **disaster-risk** is defined as “the potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, and capacity”. In the technical sense, it is defined in terms of the combination of three terms: hazard, exposure and vulnerability.

For instance, when a settlement is established on the shores of a river, by carrying out a hydraulic analysis, hydrologists can identify and characterise the flood hazard. According to the UNISDR definition, a “hazard is characterised by its location, intensity or magnitude, **frequency** and probability”. In some countries, such hazard areas outline the geographic extent of (floods which) have a 100 year period of return. Any people, assets and infrastructure, as well as ecosystems located inside the area, are exposed to floods. The **degree** of damage is then characterised by its vulnerability. For instance, this can be defined by the physical structure of a building, as well as to include social and economic characteristics of a system. Additionally, vulnerability is further characterised by the capacities of a society to cope with a hazard.





The UN and Disaster Risk Management



The United Nations designated the period between 1990-1999 as the *International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)*. Under the umbrella of IDNDR, experts from many fields began to shape the global framework for disaster risks and their management. Of particular relevance was the introduction of several concepts related to disaster-risk, including *hazard*, *exposure*, and *risk*, as well as the need to reduce disaster-risks for a more sustainable development of communities worldwide. Many organizations of the United Nations system carried out a variety of efforts and activities under the auspices of the Decade.

In January 2005, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction ([UNDRR](#)) and the Government of Japan hosted the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDRR) in Kobe, Japan. The outcome of the conference was the **Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)**. This framework, endorsed by 168 Member States, marked a milestone in catalyzing national and local efforts to reduce disaster risk, all the while strengthening international cooperation through the development of regional strategies, plans and policies. It also marked the creation of global and regional *platforms* for disaster risk reduction.

In March 2015, the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction was adopted during the *Third UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction*. The Sendai Framework is the successor to the HFA and will steer efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels between 2015 and 2030. It is structured in a similar fashion to the HFA, providing guidance to local and national institutions and stakeholders on key priorities for action, and includes guidance to regional and international organizations on how to contribute in these efforts.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework has been established with the aim of substantially reducing disaster risk and losses, in lives, livelihoods, health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries. The framework includes four priorities for action and seven global targets. More information on the Framework can be found [here](#).

UN-SPIDER

Under the guidance of the *Committee on Practical Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)*, the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations (UNOOSA) established the United Nations Platform for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in 2006, with the aim of promoting the use of space-based information in all phases of the disaster management cycle.

Relevant UN-SPIDER activities

[UN-SPIDER Newsletter on Space-Technologies for DRR](#)

[WCDRR Working Session: Earth Observation and High Technology to Reduce Risks](#)

[WCDRR Working Session: Early Warning](#)

[WCDRR Public Forum: Enhancing Disaster Resilience by Fusion of Simulation, Sensing and Geospatial Information](#)

[United Nations/Germany Expert Meeting on Space-based Information for Flood and Drought Risk Reduction](#)

[UN-SPIDER Side event at 6th AMCDRR](#)

[United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management "Multi-hazard Disaster Risk Assessment"](#)

[Space Technologies for Disaster-Risk Reduction: Key Messages \(PDF\)](#)

Related Links

[UN-SPIDER](#)





The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction



UN World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai, Japan

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was developed to guide efforts on disaster-risk reduction in the period between 2015 and 2030. The framework was adopted during the *Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction*, which was held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015. As in the case of its predecessor, the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), the Sendai Framework recognizes that States have the primary responsibility to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including cooperation.

The Sendai Framework: Goal and Expected Outcome

Taking into consideration the fact that the HFA was instrumental in raising awareness on the need to focus on disaster risk reduction, in generating political commitment and in catalyzing actions by a wide range of stakeholders at all levels, Member States defined the goal of the Sendai Framework as follows: *to prevent and reduce disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery and thus strengthen resilience.* For more information on the Sendai framework, [click here](#).

The Sendai Framework: Priorities for Action

Taking into consideration the experience gained through the implementation of the HFA, the Sendai Framework adopted the notion of priorities for action that were included in the HFA. The Sendai Framework includes four priorities:

1. Understanding disaster risk;
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;

Relevant UN-SPIDER activities

UN-SPIDER Newsletter on Space Technologies for DRR

WCDRR Working Session: Earth Observation and High Technology to Reduce Risks

WCDRR Working Session: Early Warning

WCDRR Public Forum: Enhancing Disaster Resilience by Fusion of Simulation, Sensing and Geospatial Information

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UN-SPIDER Side event at 6th AMCDRR

United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management "Multi-hazard



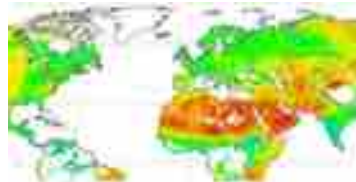
Data Application of the Month



Vegetation Indices



Population



Soil Moisture



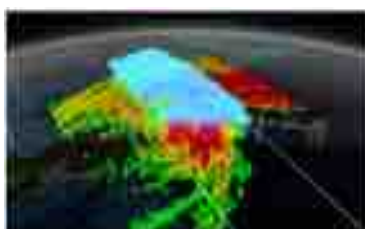
Land Cover



Landslides



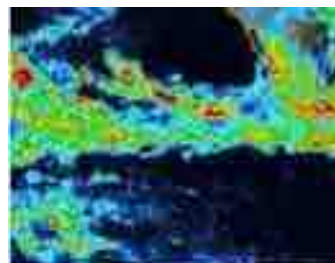
Elevation



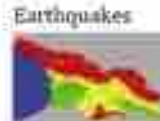
Precipitation



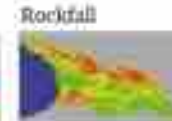
Drought Monitoring



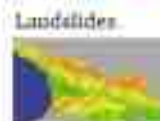
Accumulated
Precipitation



Earthquakes



Rockfall

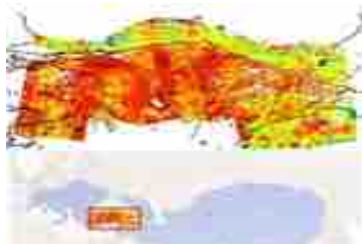


Landslides



Mudflows

Landslide Monitoring
Using ILWIS



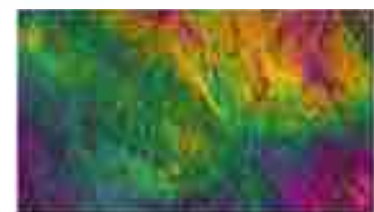
Sentinels Earthquake
Monitoring



Emergency Response



Forest Fires



Free Satellite Data





Types of missions conducted by UN-SPIDER

Technical Advisory Mission (TAM)

A Technical Advisory Mission (TAM) is conducted to identify the needs of a Member State regarding its capacity to fully take advantage of space-based information. As an inter-institutional fact-finding mission, it is usually requested by the respective national government and is carried out by a team of experts that UN-SPIDER gathers. Typically, TAMs are one-week long missions. The expert team meets with key disaster management and development authorities in the Government, United Nations organizations, regional and international organizations/institutes, and private entrepreneurs to discuss the use of space-based information for risk and disaster management in detail and to subsequently make recommendations on improvements.

[Browse Technical Advisory Missions](#)

Institutional Strengthening missions (ISM)

With an Institutional Strengthening Mission (ISM), UN-SPIDER assists a Member State in increasing its capacity to benefit from space-based information for risk and disaster management. ISMs are usually carried out by experts from UN-SPIDER and may include, depending on the situation, experts from other institutions including the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices. Mission activities can include training personnel or facilitating access to space-derived data. UN-SPIDER also facilitates inter-institutional workshops for policy and strategy design leading to more effective use of geospatial data. Such workshops can also lead to the set up of geospatial infrastructures, allowing institutions to more easily access and share data and information. Usually, ISMs are followed up on the recommendations of a UN-SPIDER Technical Advisory Mission.

[Browse Institutional Strengthening Missions](#)

Expert missions (EM)

Expert Missions are short-term and exploratory in nature. As opposed to TAMs which are inter-institutionally formatted, an EM usually consists of one UN-SPIDER expert meeting with representatives of one or more institutions. This expert is in most cases a UN-SPIDER member of staff. EMs can range from a solitary meeting, with the prospect of being extended into a consultation period spanning over several days, where specific topics are discussed in further detail. Usually, EMs serve to explore the possibilities of conducting a TAM, but they can subsequently be carried out as a follow-up activity to such a TAM also.





Technical Advisory Support (TAS) and Follow-up: Dominican Republic

Need

→ Government request for TAS



01/2010: Technical Advisory Mission

**TAM Recommendation:
Inter-institutional group**



07/2011: Institutional Strengthening Mission
11/2011: National Workshop



**TAM Recommendation:
Strengthen capacities**



05/2013: Training on remote sensing for floods
03/2014: Training on SAR

Emergency Support



Forest fire 07/2014

UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal



Access to data, software, recommended practices



Recommended Practices

The screenshot displays the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal interface. At the top, the header includes the United Nations logo and the text "UNITED NATIONS Office for Outer Space Affairs UN-SPIDER KNOWLEDGE PORTAL". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Search, About Us, News & Events, Links & Resources, United Nations, Advisory Board, Network, Home, News & Events, and About Us. The main content area features a "Recommended Practice: Burn Severity Mapping" section. This section includes a flowchart on the left, a central map of a landmass with a color-coded burn severity scale (ranging from green to red), and a text block on the right. The text block discusses the use of satellite data for burn severity mapping and the importance of data quality. Below the text are two buttons: "Step by Step" and "In Detail". To the right of the main content, there is a "Recommended by:" section with the UN-SPIDER logo and a "Related Products" section listing various publications and reports. The entire page is set against a background of a globe.



Supporting the full disaster management cycle

Geoinformation for Hazard, exposure, vulnerability, and risk assessment

Geoinformation for Early Warning systems

Recommended Practice on Flood Hazard Mapping

Recommended Practice on Drought Monitoring

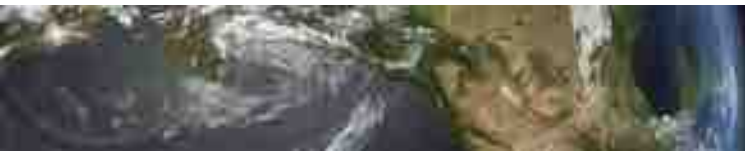
Geoinformation for Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)/ Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA)



Geoinformation for Rapid mapping: Extent and impact

Recommended Practice on Flood extent Mapping

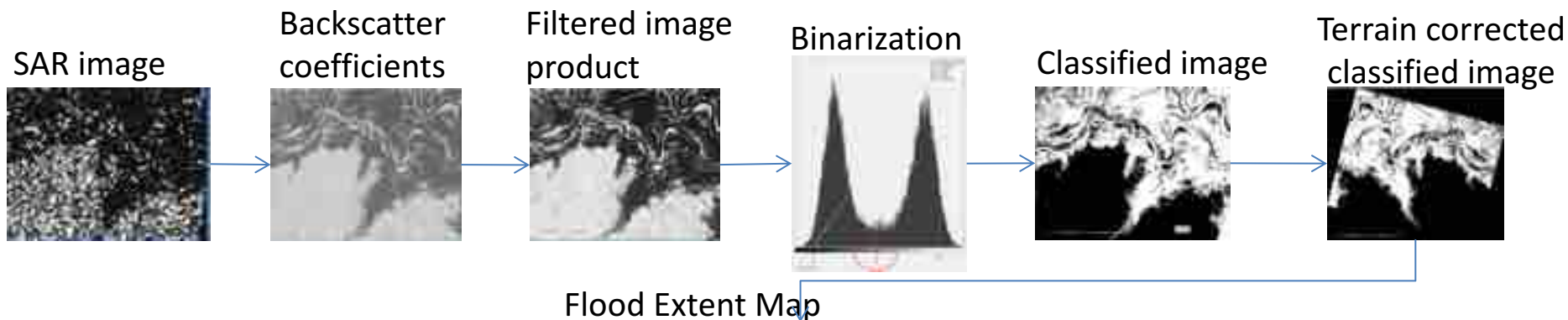
Recommended Practice on Forest fire burnt severity Mapping



Recommended Practice Flood Extent Mapping

How can I create a flood extent map based on SAR data using free software?

Recommended practices by UN-SPIDER's Ukrainian Regional Support Office provides step-by-step instructions.

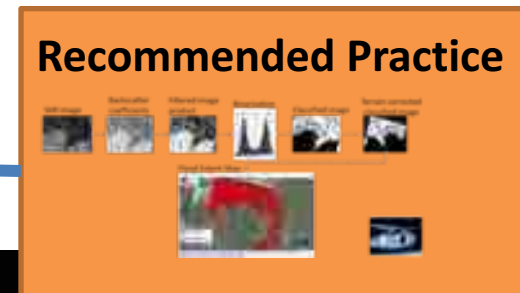
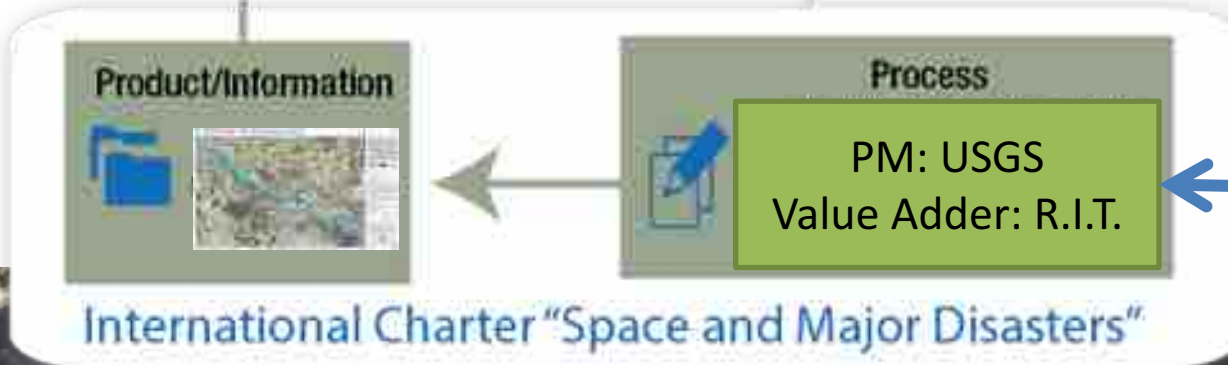
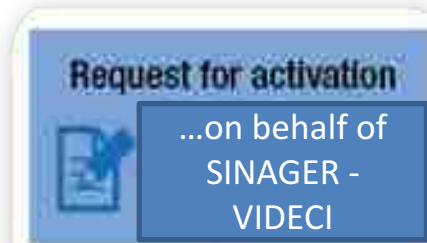


Flood Extent Map





Recommended Practice Flood Extent Mapping – Use Case

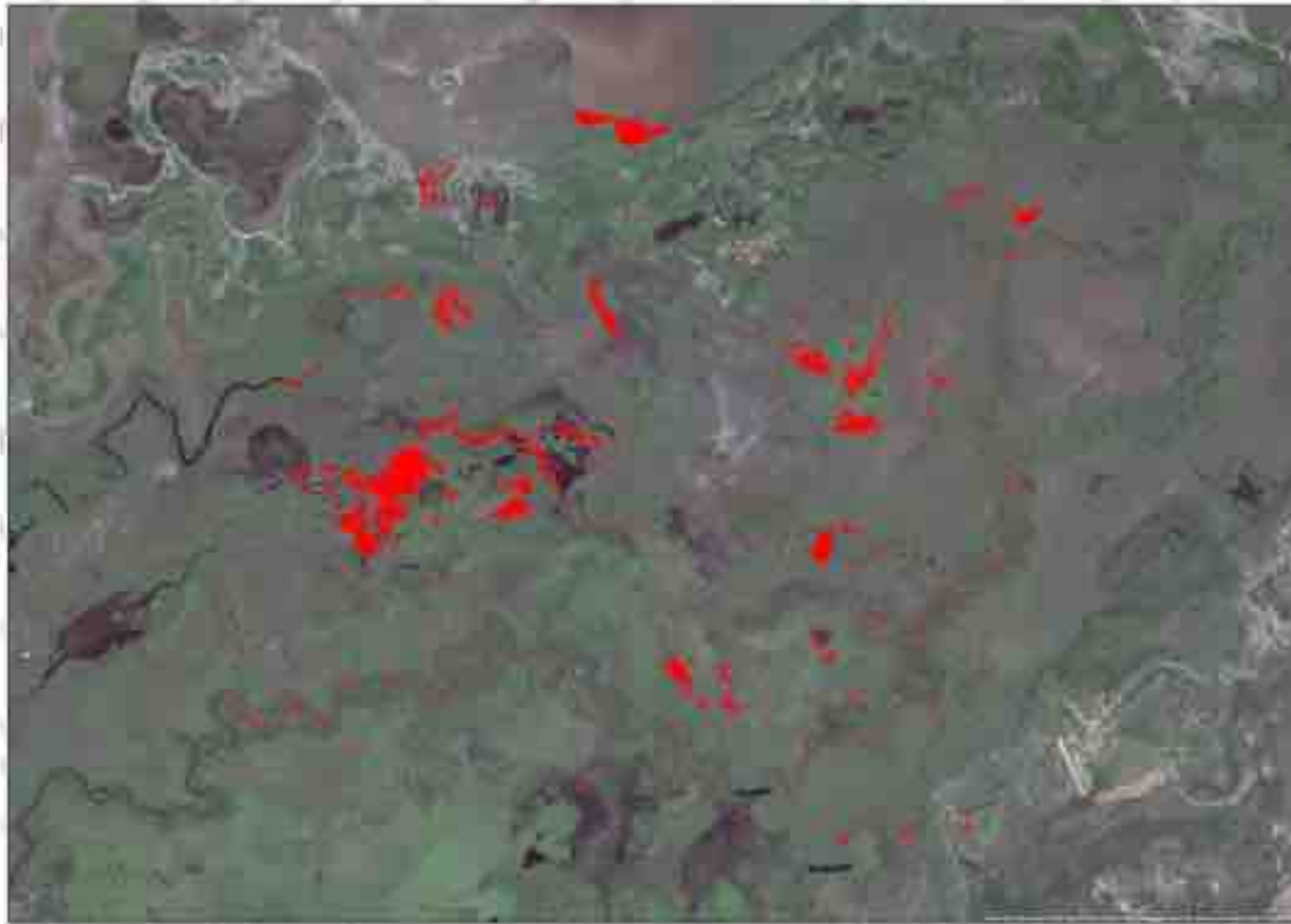




Recommended Practice Flood Extent Mapping

Santa Rosa, Bolivia Flood Areas - TerraSAR-X Scene Data Capture and Flood Analysis: 2 March 2015

Cluster Call: S19



Legend



Interpretation

This map was generated using TerraSAR-X data captured on 2 March 2015. The data was processed using the recommended practice for flood extent mapping. The map shows the extent of flood areas in red. The background is a grayscale satellite image.

Cartographic Information

Scale: 1:50,000
Projection: UTM
Datum: WGS 84

Data Sources

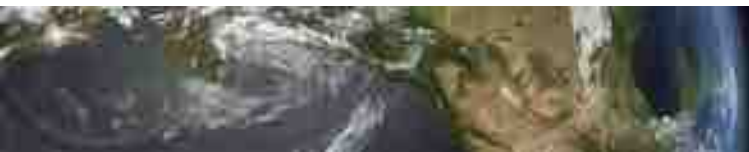
TerraSAR-X (ESA)

Disclaimer

This map is provided as a service to the community. It is not intended for use in legal proceedings or for other purposes where accuracy is critical.

Credits

This work was supported by the Cluster Call S19. The authors would like to thank the TerraSAR-X team for providing the data.

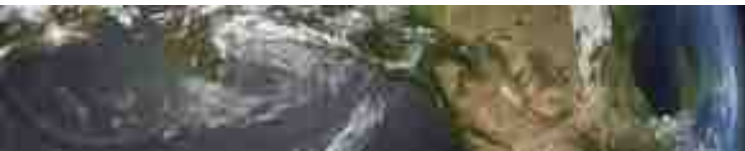
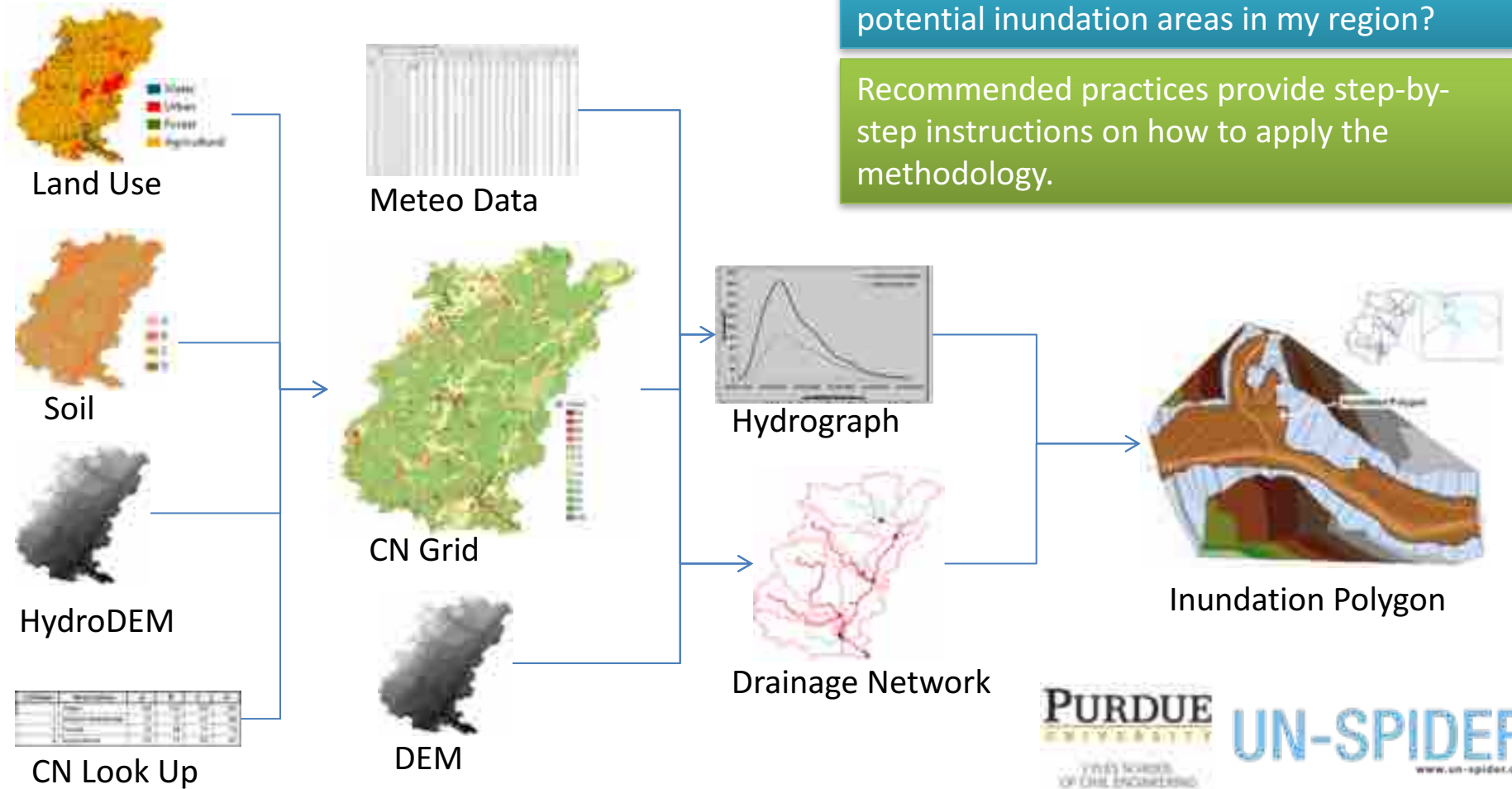




Recommended Practice Flood Hazard Mapping

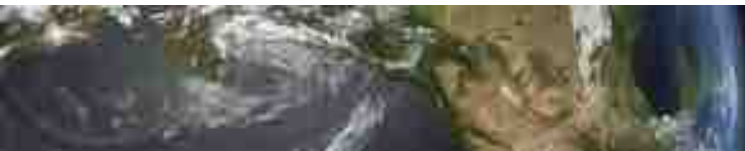
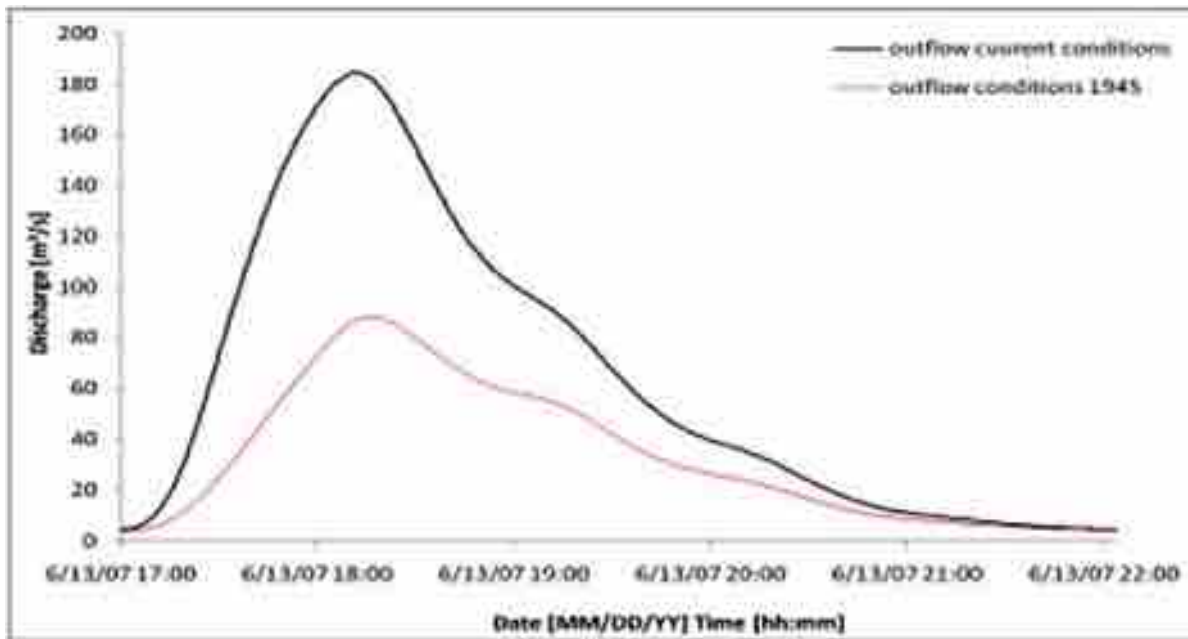
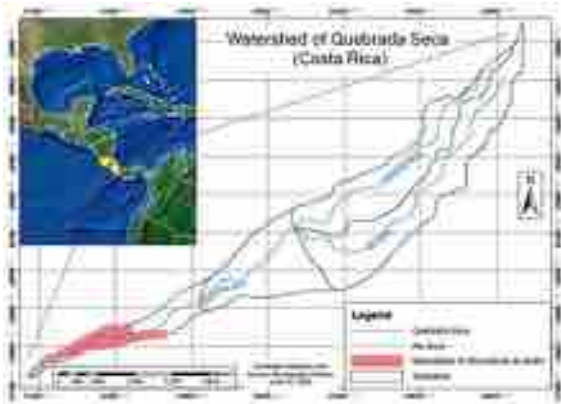
How do land use changes affect runoff and potential inundation areas in my region?

Recommended practices provide step-by-step instructions on how to apply the methodology.





Recommended Practice Flood Hazard Mapping – Use Case

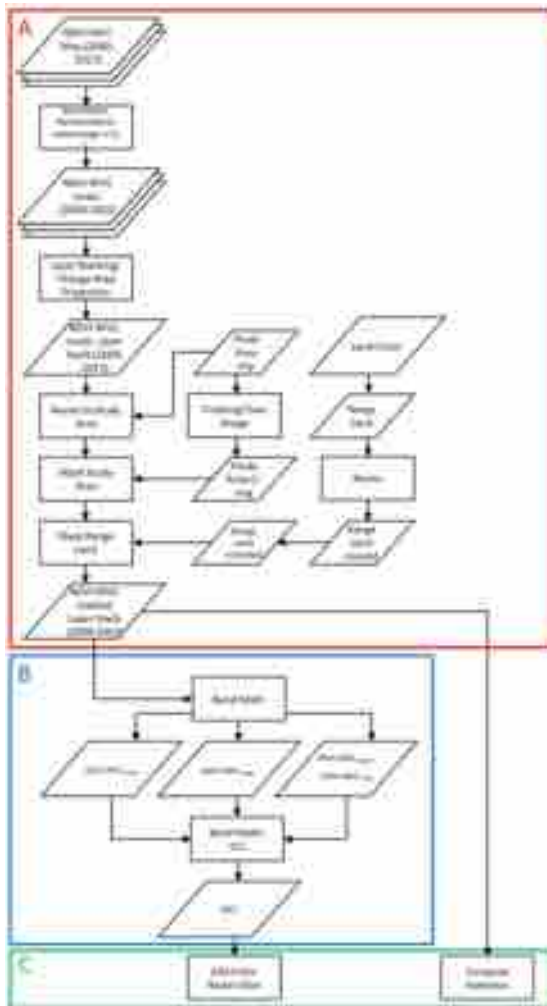




Recommended Practice Drought Monitoring

How can I estimate whether the current drought is more severe than a previous drought?

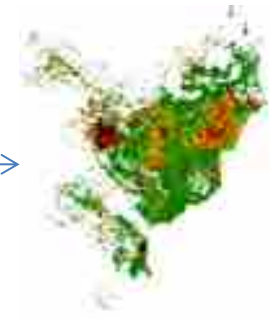
Recommended practice by UN-SPIDER's Iranian Regional Support Office and Federal University of Santa Maria in Brazil provide step-by-step instructions.



MODIS NDVI time series



Pre-processed images

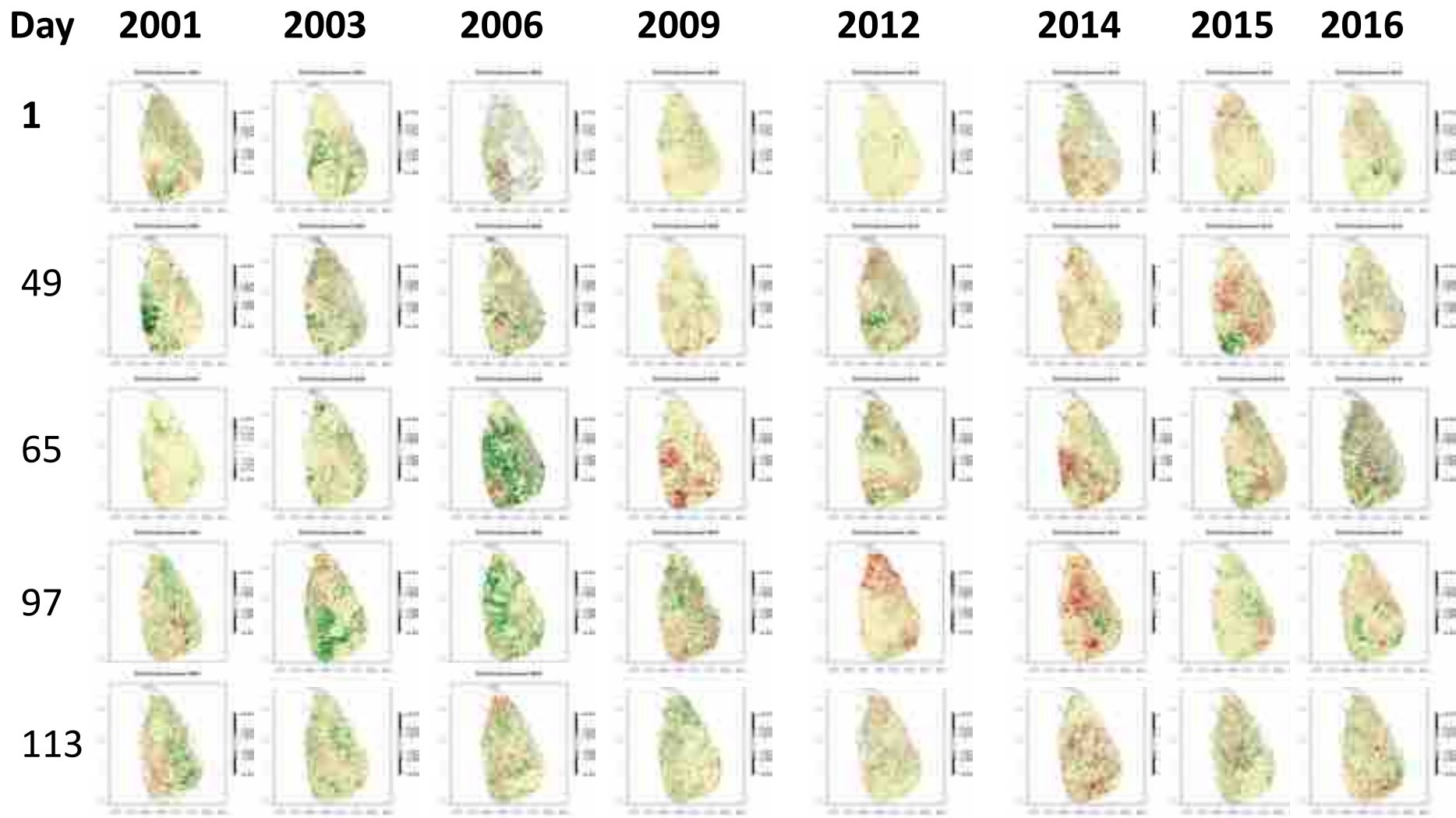


VCI maps





Recommended Practice Drought Monitoring





The 8th Annual Meeting of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices Commences in Vienna

Explore the Knowledge Portal



Regional Support Offices



A **Regional Support Office (RSO)** is a regional or national centre of expertise that is set up within an existing entity by a Member State or group of Member States that have put forward an offer to set up and fund the proposed RSO. An RSO can be hosted by a space agency, a research center, a university, or a disaster management institution, to name but a few examples. These offices communicate and coordinate with UN-SPIDER on a regular basis, covering the realms of Outreach and Capacity building, as well as Horizontal Cooperation and Technical Advisory Support.

The RSO section contains a list of the UN-SPIDER RSOs as well as a brief description of each Office, and an overview of its facilities, expertise, and infrastructure.

Please choose from the map below the Regional Support Office that you are interested in:





Global Partnership using Space-based technology applications for disaster risk reduction: GP-STAR



UN-SPIDER and its partners aim to raise the profile of space-based information for global disaster risk reduction. (Image: NASA)

UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER, together with many partners from the Space, Earth Observations, Civil Protection communities, and regional and international organizations have conducted a variety of efforts since June 2014 as a way of spearheading efforts regarding the incorporation of the use of Space-based Technologies and Applications and Earth observation in the context of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015 - 2030).

UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER, UNEP, JAXA and ESA worked with key government agencies in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure that the proposed text on the use of Earth observations and space-based technologies was introduced at the Sendai Framework.

These efforts have been endorsed by government institutions of the Federal Republic of Germany, the People's Republic of China, the Dominican Republic, the Republic of Guatemala and the Islamic Republic of Iran.



Partners

UN Agencies:



International Organizations:





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Space-based information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

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RIVAF

SEWS-D

VALID

GeoSHAPE

UN-SPIDER Regional Expert Meeting for LAC in Mexico, 11 – 13 July 2017

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Image: NASA

Explore the Knowledge Portal



SEWS-Drought in Latin America and the Caribbean



Dry Corridor of Central America (orange polygons). Courtesy of OAC

The most frequent and intense droughts that are taking place in the so-called "Dry Corridor" of Central America and the Dominican Republic, as well as the high of rural communities, are forcing national and local governments in countries of these regions to implement a series of measures in order to respond to the impacts caused by these droughts. All countries have established efforts to monitor droughts through the national meteorological departments and inter-institutional efforts with ministries of agriculture, ministries of environment and natural resources and other government agencies, to assess the impacts of droughts and measures to cope with their impacts.

Taking note of the severe impact of droughts and of the fact that in rural countries data on rainfall and field data from extensionists of the ministries of agriculture are the

main contributors used to track the manifestation of droughts; UN-SPIDER has brought together several international, regional and national partners as a way to promote the use of in the effects of droughts on soils and vegetation, as a way to strengthen national drought early warning systems.

The specific objectives of this project are to strengthen national drought policies based on the principles of integral risk reduction, and to enhance the capacity of ministries in agriculture and environment, civil protection agencies, meteorological observations and other relevant institutions, as a way to generate and make use of space-based information on a permanent basis for the improvement of the SEWS routine operation.



Background Information

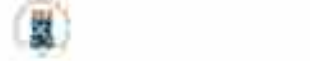
Agriculture is the immediate victim of drought conditions - impacting crop yield, crop production and farm employment whose implications are manifested by human interactions with the situation. Drought differs from other natural hazards in many respects - most complex and least understood of all disasters.



News and Advances

In this page we will post the news from institutions in countries where the project is being executed and from the partners.

SEWS-D partners:



Share this page:





SEWS-D Background Information

SEWS-U

Partners

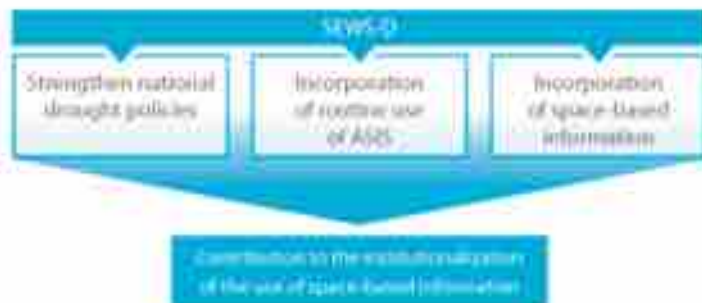
Countries

Drought Indices

Agriculture is the immediate victim of drought (drought), which impacts the crop area, crop production and farm employment, and severe implications for the affected population. Drought is the most complex and least understood of all disasters and differs from other natural hazards in many respects. According to Hadol and Talakies (2000) scientists have agreed on general definitions of drought. According to Baran & Rodhe (1985), "The chief characteristic of a drought is a decrease of water availability in a particular period over a particular area." This definition highlights three features of a drought: intensity, duration and **spatial** coverage. Yevjevich (1987) claims that the lack of general acceptance of a precise and objective definition of drought, has been one of the principle obstacles to the investigation of drought". There are three main types of droughts, namely:

- Meteorological drought: related to rainfall amounts
- Hydrological drought: determined by water levels in reservoirs
- Agricultural drought: related to the availability of water for crops.

Traditionally, Drought Early Warning Systems (DEWS) are operated by meteorological observatories or institutes in countries of this region using rainfall **data** (rainfall anomalies). The Standardized **Precipitation** Index is being promoted for such purposes. Ministries of Agriculture often use their extensions in the field to gather additional data and information on the impacts of droughts and as a way to generate an overall picture regarding the extent of droughts and their potential impacts. However, there is no real use of to track changes in the condition of the vegetation as a way to complement rainfall anomaly data in order to enhance the scope and effectiveness of the DEWS.





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UN-SPIDER Regional Expert Meeting for LAC in Mexico, 11 – 13 July 2017

PHOTO: NASA

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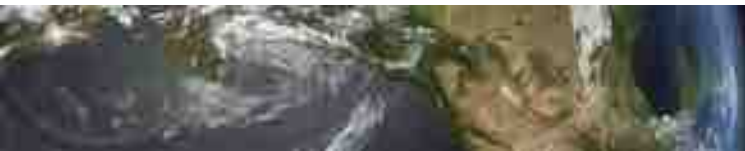
Newsletter

The UN-SPIDER Newsletter is published periodically with the aim of highlighting the seasonal UN-SPIDER achievements, news and activities. In addition to the online publication, it is distributed in hard copy at conferences, workshops, and various UN-SPIDER events. It could include any of these sections, depending on the issue and the nature of the seasonal news:

- Workshops - organized or supported by UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER
- Technical Advisory Support - covering recent Technical Advisory Missions, seminars, expert meetings
- UN-SPIDER's support to disaster response and disaster risk management
- Interview - with one of our partners, workshop participants, colleagues
- A Case Study or Feature - for example a portrait of one of our partners
- Knowledge Portal news - new features or updates on the UN-SPIDER online portal
- Network news - developments in the network of Regional Support offices and with National Focal Points

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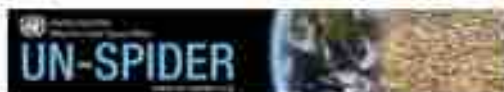
	UN-SPIDER Newsletter 1/17: UN-SPIDER's Engagement in Promoting Science and Technology in the Implementation of the Sendai Framework	2017
	Issue date: 17/05/2017	
	UN-SPIDER Newsletter 2/15: Space-based Information for Post-2015 Sustainable Development	2015
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	UN-SPIDER Newsletter 1/15: Space-based Information for Disaster Risk Reduction	2015
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UN-SPIDER Newsletter 1/17: UN-SPIDER's Engagement in Promoting Science and Technology in the Implementation of the Sendai Framework

Download the Newsletter @ 17 KB



NEWSLETTER

UN-SPIDER's Engagement in Promoting Science and Technology in the Implementation of the Sendai Framework

Science and technology, including Earth observations, provide critical inputs for disaster risk reduction. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), through its Platform for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), is committed to providing integrated applications of space technologies for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.



IN THE NEWS

UN-SPIDER's engagement in promoting science and technology in the implementation of the Sendai Framework is highlighted in the latest issue of the newsletter.

The newsletter features an interview with Daniel Treaga, Programme Officer at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), discussing global efforts to address droughts and the role of Early Warning Systems. Additionally, UNOOSA Director Simonetta Di Pippo writes about the UNOOSA-01 process launched by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and supported by UNOOSA with the objective of formulating a long-term vision - Space2030.

Science and technology, including Earth observations, provide critical inputs for disaster risk reduction. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), through its Platform for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), is committed to providing integrated applications of space technologies for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

In this issue of our newsletter, we present three networks we're involved with that contribute to this objective: Strengthening Early Warning Systems for Drought (SEWS-D), the International Network on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (IN-MEWS) and the Global Partnership Using Space-based Technology Applications for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP-STAR). In an interview with Daniel Treaga, Programme Officer at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), we talk about the global efforts to address droughts and the role of Early Warning Systems in this context. Finally, UNOOSA Director Simonetta Di Pippo writes about the UNOOSA-01 process launched by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and supported by UNOOSA with the objective of formulating a long-term vision - Space2030. Through this process, COPUOS and UNOOSA aim to build synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement.

Issue Date:

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

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The 8th Annual Meeting of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices Commences in Vienna

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What is UN-SPIDER?



About UN-SPIDER:

In its [resolution 63/110](#) of 14 December 2000 the United Nations General Assembly agreed to establish the "United Nations Platform for Disaster Management and Emergency Response - UN-SPIDER" as a new United Nations programme, with the following mission statement: "Ensure that all countries and international and regional organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle".

A number of initiatives in recent years have contributed in making space technologies available for humanitarian aid and emergency response. Yet, UN-SPIDER is the first to focus on the need to ensure access to and use of such technologies during all phases of the disaster management cycle, including the risk reduction phase which is crucial for reducing the losses of lives and property.

The UN-SPIDER programme is achieving this by focusing on being a gateway to space information for disaster management support, by acting as a bridge to connect the disaster management, risk management and space communities and by being a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening, in particular for developing countries. UN-SPIDER is being implemented as an open network of providers of space-based solutions to support disaster management activities. Besides Vienna (where UNOOSA is located), the programme also has an office in Bonn, Germany as well as an office in Beijing, China.

Financial and in-kind support, in the case of Vienna, is provided by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (bmvit) and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).

The Bonn Office benefits from the financial and in-kind support provided by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and the German Aerospace Center.

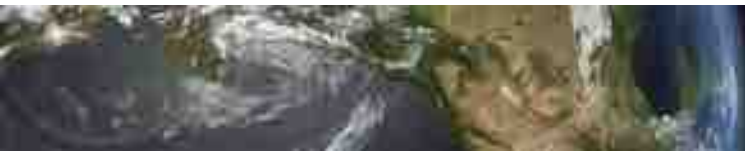
The Beijing Office benefits from the financial and in-kind support provided by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Please find below a list of relevant official documents. Reports in all six official UN languages are also available on the [UNOOSA website](#).



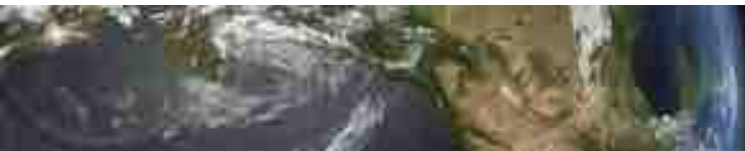
Challenges

- One-portal to fit all types of audiences (decision makers, practitioners, students, etc; space community, disaster risk reduction community, emergency response community);
- Lack of manpower to make Spanish and French versions more attractive (elevate the number of visitors);
- Migration process to a new hosting site taking longer than expected;
- Lack of manpower to edit new content.



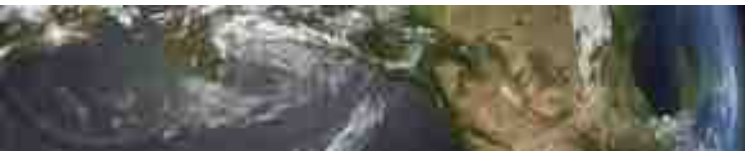
Way forward

- Continue incorporating new content, updating existing content;
- Add additional segments as per 2012 evaluation (early warning, vulnerability, revision of segment on hazards);
- Add content / recommended practices on emerging topics (Sendai framework); on the combined use of three satellite technologies (Earth observation, satellite telecommunications, GNSS); and on the combined use of space-based and in-situ data in particular applications;
- Conduct missions to countries to promote the use of the content in the Portal;



Way forward

- Continue to conduct training activities on the use of the Recommended Practices as part of projects targeting institutional strengthening;
- Modify/improve the content in some pages to elevate the number of visitors to such pages if possible;
- Work with specific staff in DRR / ER institutions in developing countries as a way to enhance the use of the Portal and recommended practices;
- In the longer term, incorporate versions in Russian, Arabic and Chinese





Questions?

