

This service summarizes current satellite mapping activities of interest to GDACS stakeholders. It is issued weekly and based on contributions from map-producing entities and GDACS partners.

Satellite mapping overview

As of 16 January 2017

Asia

Mongolia cold wave – GLIDE number: CW-2017-000001-MNG

For a second year in a row, Mongolians are dealing with an unusually cold and snowy winter. An estimated 157,000 Mongolians are exposed to the extreme conditions. For many herder families that graze livestock, the extreme winter weather is disastrous if large animals starve due to thick snow and ice covering grazing lands. The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA's Aqua satellite acquired satellite imagery of snow across Northern Mongolia on 09 January 2017. The map product is available for online viewing and to download as a JPEG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Link: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=89431>

Middle East

Iraq complex emergency – GLIDE number: CE20140613IRQ

UNITAR-UNOSAT published maps illustrating satellite-detected fires, smoke plumes, and environmental damage at and around Al Qayyarah, Iraq. From satellite imagery collected between 23 December 2016 and 7 January 2017, UNITAR-UNOSAT identified extinguished fires detected on 21 November 2016 and ongoing fires detected on 23 December 2016. Detected with both radar and optical imagery, UNITAR-UNOSAT mapped a growing oil spill very close to a tributary of the Tigris River. It is possible that oil is spilling to the river. The spectral signature from thermal imagery also suggest that areas of the oil spill are on fire. From satellite imagery collected between 18 July 2016 to 07 January 2017, UNITAR-UNOSAT detected fires and smoke plumes at oil wells south of Mosul and east of Baiji, Iraq. Additionally, precipitation data from NASA's IMERG algorithm was included to evaluate instances of rainfall intersecting the smoke plume. The map products are available to download as a PDF on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

Link: <http://www.unitar.org/unosat/maps/IRQ>

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North America

United States cold wave – GLIDE number: TBD

In early January 2017, the United States received large amounts of snow. On 09 January 2017, the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA’s Aqua satellite acquired satellite imagery of snow across southwestern Alaska. Southeast Anchorage received 50cm of snow. The map product is available for online viewing and to download as a JPEG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Link: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=89439>

South America

Argentina fire – GLIDE number: TBD

Wildfires in Argentina began in late December 2016 and spread across rural landscapes creating huge smoke plumes. The fires may have started from thunderstorms after a drought in the summer. There are currently around 10 or more fires. The National Commission for Space Activities (CONAE) of Argentina published maps of fires for Buenos Aires and La Pampa provinces. Satellite imagery acquired on 07 January 2017 and 08 January 2017 were analyzed. The map products are available to download as PDFs on the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters website.

Source: International Charter on Space and Major Disasters

Link: <https://www.disasterscharter.org/web/guest/-/fire-in-argentina-call-597->

This summary is compiled by the GDACS mapping & satellite imagery coordination mechanism, operated by the UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT).

When referring to this summary, please credit: GDACS, UNITAR-UNOSAT.

For comments, questions and to submit information on satellite image derived products, please contact: maps@gdacs.org

Sources indicate satellite analysis production entities and imagery providers. The products referenced in this summary are based on remote satellite imagery and may not be validated in the field prior to release, in which case findings are based only on what is observed in the satellite imagery.

**Not an official GLIDE number, as event has no entry in GLIDE database, but used by GDACS for seamless information integration.*