

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 10 August 2015

Asia

Myanmar floods – GLIDE number: FL-2015-000089-MMR

Torrential rainfall at the onset of the monsoon season caused severe flooding in several parts of Myanmar. The western regions of Chin, Magway, Sagaing and Rakhine were declared disaster zones by the government. In an effort to aid disaster response, UNITAR-UNOSAT has been working on this event since 13 July 2015 and triggered the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters on behalf of the UNDP Myanmar on 05 August 2015. UNITAR-UNOSAT recently published a GDACS live map and overview maps of flood waters in southeast Bago State, central Magway State, and near the city of Yangon. Using satellite imagery acquired 06 and 09 August 2015, UNITAR-UNOSAT identified approximately 70,000 hectares of flood affected land in southeast Bago State, 60,000 hectares in central Magway State, and 45,000 hectares near Yangon. Both the Irrawaddy River in Bago State and the Sittang River in Magway State overflowed and inundated land surrounding the river banks. In Yangon, most flood affected lands were agricultural fields in the Yangon River Delta. Live and static map products are available for online viewing or PDF download on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website. Accompanying data in ESRI shapefile and geodatabase formats are also provided. Additionally, a satellite mapping and coordination system (SMCS) event page is accessible on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website for an overview of planned, in progress, and completed imagery analysis.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

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

Taiwan tropical cyclone – GLIDE number: TC-2015-000102-TWN

A category three tropical named Soudelor made landfall over Taiwan in the early morning of 08 August 2015. Torrential rainfall and mudslides occurred in the northern part of Taiwan and strong winds affected the entire country as well as coastal areas of southeastern China and southwestern islands in Japan. The NASA Earth Observatory acquired 06 and 07 August 2015 satellite imagery of the tropical cyclone as it approached Taiwan. In a subsequent overview map, the eye of Soudelor can be seen hovering over the East China Sea to the southeast of Taiwan on 07 August 2015. As of this date, the extremities of the tropical cyclone were visible moving towards Taiwan and in close proximity of northern Luzon Island in the Philippines. By 10 August 2015, Soudelor had drifted back into the East China Sea. This map product is available for online viewing and download in JPEG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website. An animation of tropical cyclone's progression on 06 August 2015 may also be viewed on this website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

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Link: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=86370&eocn=home&eoci=nh>

Vietnam floods – GLIDE number: FL-2015-000098-VNM

Northern Vietnam experienced its heaviest precipitation in forty years when torrential rainfall began in late July 2015. In response to this event, the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters was activated on 30 July 2015 by UNITAR-UNOSAT on behalf of UN ESCAP. UNITAR-UNOSAT recently released a GDACS live map for this event and several overview maps of flood waters in northern Vietnam. Analysis of satellite imagery acquired 02 August 2015 revealed approximately 300 hectares of flood affected land near the city of Ha Long and 4,731 hectares of inundated areas along the coast of Quang Ninh Province. A significant amount of flooded land was also identified in Hai Phong Province. All live and static map products are available for online viewing or PDF download on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website. Accompanying data in ESRI shapefile and geodatabase formats are also provided. Additionally, an SMCS event page is accessible on the UNITAR-UNOSAT website for an overview of planned, in progress, and completed imagery analysis.

Source: UNITAR-UNOSAT

Link: <https://www.unitar.org/unosat/maps/VNM>

North America

United States hurricane – GLIDE number: TBD

Hurricane Hilda is a category one storm in the Pacific Ocean that is slowly making its way towards Hawaii. The NASA Earth Observatory collected satellite imagery of the hurricane on 08 August 2015 and produced a situational overview map. As of this date, Hilda had just migrated from the Eastern Pacific to the Central Pacific and could be seen moving west towards Hawaii. The hurricane was located approximately 1,500 kilometers from southeast Hawaii and had maximum sustained winds of roughly 220 kilometers per hour. It is expected to weaken to a tropical depression by the time it arrives at Hawaii's Big Island later in the week. This map product is available for online viewing and download in JPEG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Link: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=86391&eocn=home&eoci=nh>

United States wildfires – GLIDE number: WF-2015-000103-USA

As of 06 August 2015, summer wildfires in the western United States had burned through more than six million acres of land. Although 80 percent of the affected area is located in remote Alaskan forests, wildfires significantly impacted Oregon, Washington, and northern California as well. The NASA Earth Observatory acquired 05 August 2015 satellite imagery of wildfires burning in northern California and Oregon. An overview map shows dozens of hotspots detected in both states with

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visible smoke plumes emanating from them. California experienced the most destruction from the Rocky fire that burned roughly 69,000 acres in the counties of Lake, Yolo, and Colusa by 06 August 2015. Using satellite imagery collected 03 August 2015, the NASA Earth Observatory produced another map that reveals a large burn scar from this fire. Three other fires farther north in California burned 37,000 acres and a fire near Milo, Oregon scorched 20,000 acres of land. Map products are available for online viewing and download in JPEG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Link: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=86366&eocn=home&eoci=nh>

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.*