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 29 March 2016

Asia

Indochina Peninsula fires – GLIDE number: TBD

A large number of small fires were observed throughout the Indochina peninsula in mid-March. Widespread fires set both intentionally and accidentally are common during this period of the dry season in Southeast Asia. Burning is often used as a land management tool to clear and maintain agricultural as well as residential landscapes. The NASA Earth Observatory collected 19 March 2016 satellite imagery of the fires and created an overview map. As of this date, thick clouds of smoke were visible over much of western Thailand and eastern Myanmar. An accompanying map shows numerous hot spots detected at the same time in parts of Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and China. While many of these fires were likely ignited on purpose, it is possible that natural conditions have intensified them and resulted in some burning out of control. At present, Southeast Asia is experiencing a drought which has significantly impacted forests and other vegetation. Map products are available for online viewing or download in JPEG and PNG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Link: http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=87758&eocn=home&eoci=nh

Indonesia volcanic eruption – GLIDE number: TBD

Dukono is one of the world's most active volcanos located in the northern part of Halmahera Island in Indonesia. The NASA Earth Observatory captured 22 March 2016 satellite imagery of a volcanic eruption at Dukono and produced an overview map. At this time, a vast plume of ash was visible emanating from the volcano and moved in a southerly direction. Ash plumes rising to altitudes of 1.5 to 2.4 kilometers were reportedly seen at Dukono on 16 March 2016 and from 19 to 22 March 2016. Ongoing explosive activity occasionally accompanied by lava flows has been observed coming from the volcano since 1933. Dukono's first historic major eruption was in 1550 and was followed by smaller eruptions in 1719, 1868, and 1901. This map product is available for online viewing or download in JPEG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Link: http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=87762&eocn=home&eoci=nh

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North America

United States floods – GLIDE number: TBD

The southern United States experienced record levels of flooding from Tennessee to Texas as a result of continuous heavy rainfall. In response to this event which has affected thousands of people, the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters was activated on 11 March 2016 by USGS on behalf of FEMA. Several maps depicting the situation have since been produced by USGS, DigitalGlobe, ROSCOSMOS, and the NASA Earth Observatory. Analysis of 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 and 22 March 2016 satellite imagery revealed extensive flooding in Shreveport, Monroe, and Webster Parish, Louisiana, as well as along the Pearl River at Slidell on the Louisiana-Mississippi border and in the vicinity of the Mississippi and White Rivers. In Louisiana, a major disaster was declared as the floods reportedly killed four people and damaged at least 5,000 homes. In Mississippi a state of emergency was proclaimed with hundreds of homes damaged and roughly 300 people evacuated. Map products are available for online viewing and download in various formats on the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters and NASA Earth Observatory websites.

Sources: International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, NASA Earth Observatory

Links: https://www.disasterscharter.org/web/guest/-/flood-in-united-stat-1

http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=87695&eocn=home&eoci=nh

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