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UN-SPIDER: A UN Platform to Support Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response

10 – 14 August 2009



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United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs - UNOOSA

The Office is responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, to support the achievement of development goals for the benefit of humankind

The Office implements the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee.

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UN-SPIDER

The United Nations General Assembly established the “**United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)**” as a programme within the United Nations to provide universal access to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management. (A/RES/61/110)


“Ensure that all countries and international and regional organisations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based Information to support the full disaster management cycle”







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UN-SPIDER TEAM










UN-SPIDER in Vienna








UN-SPIDER Bonn Office



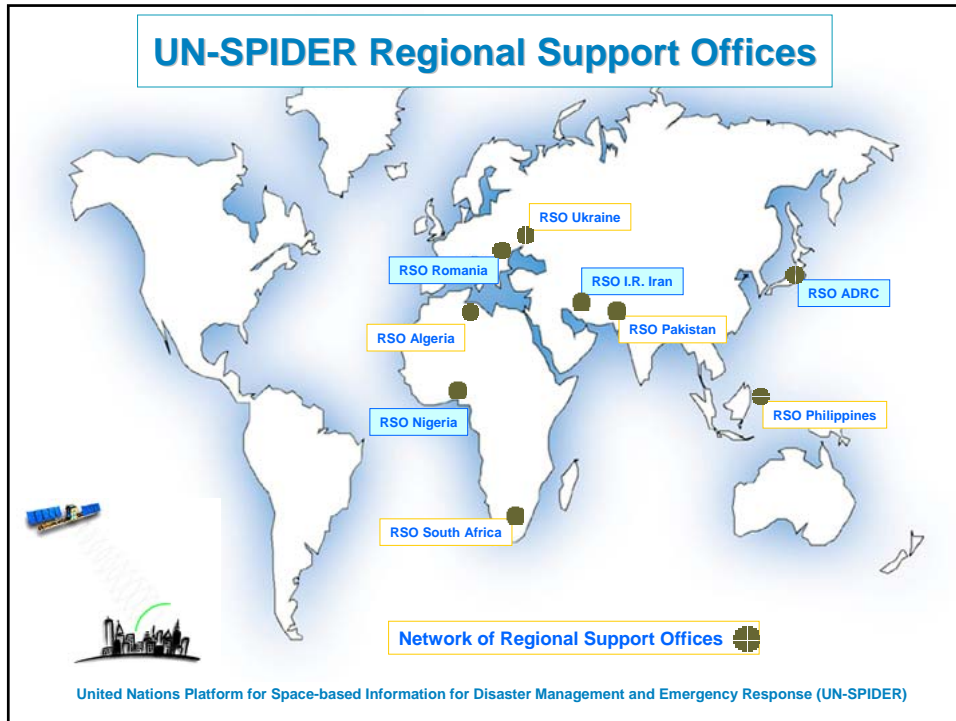
UN-SPIDER Beijing Office
(as from November 2009)



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NFP

National Focal Points

- UN-SPIDER networks with all countries through the National Focal Points (NFP). A NFP is a national institution, nominated by the Government of the respective country, representing the disaster management and space application communities
- Role: to work with UN-SPIDER staff to strengthen national disaster management planning and policies and implement specific national activities that incorporate space-based technology solutions in support of disaster management.
- Nominations received from: Austria, Belarus, **Belize**, **Bolivia**, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burundi, China, Egypt, **El Salvador**, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, **Trinidad and Tobago**, Turkey, UAE, and Ukraine.

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UN-SPIDER Activities

HORIZONTAL COOPERATION

Knowledge Portal
The UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal is a web-based tool for information, communication and process support. Users can find and share case studies, guides and products through the portal.

Fostering Cooperation
UN-SPIDER bridges the gap between the space and disaster management communities. UN-SPIDER fosters alliances and creates forums where both communities can meet.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUPPORT

Technical Advisory Support
UN-SPIDER provides support to countries in assessing national capacity and in evaluating disaster and risk reduction activities, policies and plans with regard to the use of space-based technologies.


OUTREACH AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity Building
UN-SPIDER facilitates capacity building and institutional strengthening, including the development of curricula and an e-learning platform (e-SPIDER).

UN-SPIDER Activities

...and many more

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Technical Advisory Support

- UN-SPIDER works with all Member States to ensure the access and use of space-based solutions for disaster risk management and emergency response, including:
 - a) **Assessing national capacity** and evaluating disaster and risk reduction activities, policies and plans with regard to the use of space-based technologies.
 - b) **Assisting in the definition of risk and disaster management plans and policies** with regard to the use of space-based technologies.
 - c) **Developing and customizing guidelines and templates** for including space-based technologies into disaster risk reduction and emergency response.
 - d) **Facilitating access** of national institutions to space-based information to support disaster risk reduction and emergency response activities.
 - e) **Identifying training needs** and facilitating the **implementation of capacity building activities**.
 - f) **Supporting the implementation of risk reduction and emergency response activities** using space-based technologies.

Namibia Seeks to Enhance Floods Management

By Patricia Hines

WINDHOEK — The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN-SPIDER) is assisting the Government of Namibia in assessing its national capacity to use space-based technologies for disaster risk reduction and emergency response.

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...and many more

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Horizontal cooperation

Knowledge
Portal


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Ensuring Opportunities are Available to All

- SpaceAID – Building a framework that will ensure countries and international and regional organisations are able to access and use space-based information for humanitarian and emergency response
- SPIDER Global Thematic Partnership – established at the 2nd GPDRR. Working together to ensure access and use for disaster risk reduction.

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Cooperation within the UN

- Many U.N. agencies carry out work to reduce the impact of natural disasters: ISDR, OCHA, WHO, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR
- UNOOSA is Co-chair of UN the Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) for 2009-2010 – support the development of the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI)
- UNOOSA is Secretariat to the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities
- UNOOSA is a Cooperating Body to the International Charter Space and Major Disasters

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United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

UN-SPIDER Newsletter

October 2008 Vol. 2/06

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UN-SPIDER Connects Disaster Managers with Satellite Imagery Providers

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Assists Satellite Imagery Acquisition for Volcanic Activities in Montserrat and Flooding in Southeast Nepal/Indian Bihar

ON 26 JULY 2008, seismic activity at the Soufriere Hills Volcano started to increase in Montserrat, a British Overseas Territory in the Caribbean. The volcano has been intermittently active for 13 years. On 28 July, an explosion took place on the west side of a large lava dome at the summit. The dome partially collapsed, and there was a strong possibility that the explosion had caused instability in the rest of the dome, with the possibility to cause further collapses and endanger inhabited areas of the island.

The Montserrat Volcano Observatory (MVO) is part of Montserrat's disaster management system and plays an important role in providing early warning to the authorities of a possible eruption of the volcano. Staff at the MVO, however, were not able to make any assessment of the stability of the dome this time, due to persistent clouds obscuring the volcano. Aerial surveys or optical satellite imagery could not penetrate the clouds. An additional challenge was to obtain a set of comparable before-after images that would allow the staff to analyse the terrain and determine the extent of change in the volcanic dome.

(see "satellite imagery" on page 2)

UN-SPIDER Reads Technical Mission to Burkina Faso

Will Advise Policymakers and Practitioners on the Use of Space-Based Information for Disaster Management

AT THE UNITED Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUS) meeting in Vienna in June 2008, the government of Burkina Faso made an official request to UN-SPIDER for a Technical Advisory Mission. The Mission, taking place from 12 to 21 November 2008, will assess Burkina Faso's existing use of space-based information for disaster management, identify potential areas where such information could play a greater role, and propose recommendations on how to improve Burkina Faso's utilization of this information.

The vulnerability of Western African countries such as Burkina Faso to climate and environmental change is likely to increase as demands on resources continue to rise in tandem with rapidly growing populations. The disaster management agencies in the region have to adapt to the increasing number of natural disasters, ranging between the poles of drought and flood. Additional impacts triggered by environ-

(see "advisory mission" on page 4)

13000 experts and practitioners



UN-SPIDER





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Outreach and Capacity Building



Over 700 participants from 100 countries in 2008

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Opportunities for the LAC Region

- **Contribute to the development of Country Profiles**
- **Coordination with National Focal Points (NFPs) in the implementation of UN-SPIDER activities in the region**
- **Participate in Outreach Activities in 2009 – Ecuador Workshop in September**
- **Participate in Technical Advisory Missions**
- **Strengthen existing Communities of Practice**

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Upcoming UN-SPIDER Meetings

- **UN-SPIDER Regional Workshop "Space Applications for Disaster-Risk Management and Emergency Response in Latin America" , in Quito, Ecuador, 29 September to 2 October 2009 (Workshop will be held in Spanish language)**
- **Third United Nations International UN-SPIDER Bonn Workshop: "From Concepts to Application", in Bonn, Germany, 21 to 23 October 2009**

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Available Reports

- **A/AC.105/929 - Report on activities carried out in 2008 in the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response**
- **A/AC.105/927 - Outreach activities carried out in 2008 in the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response**
- **A/AC.105/937 - United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response - (UN-SPIDER): workplan for the biennium 2010-2011**

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THANK-YOU

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