



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs



Learning resources and advisory services for drought management and response

**From
United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster
Management and Emergency Response
(UN-SPIDER)**

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Space technologies for Drought monitoring



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Credit: NASA



Earth observation

Satellite meteorology

**Global Navigation
Satellite Systems
(GNSS)**

**Satellite
communication**



Credit: NASA



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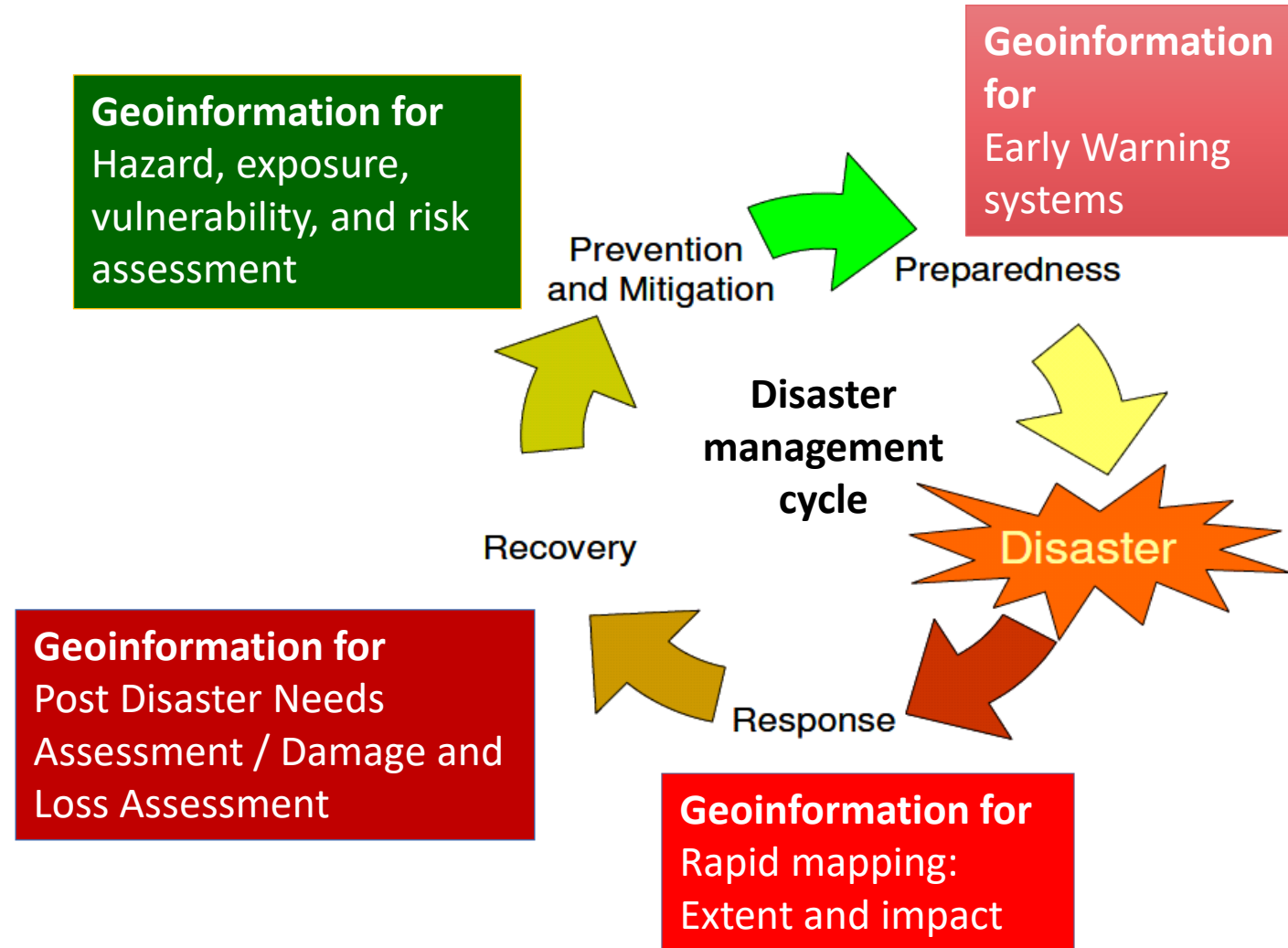


Changeable Padma river in Bangladesh, 2000-2008

United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)

Ensure that all countries have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle

United Nations Resolution 61/110, Dec. 2006



Assistance in building disaster resilience

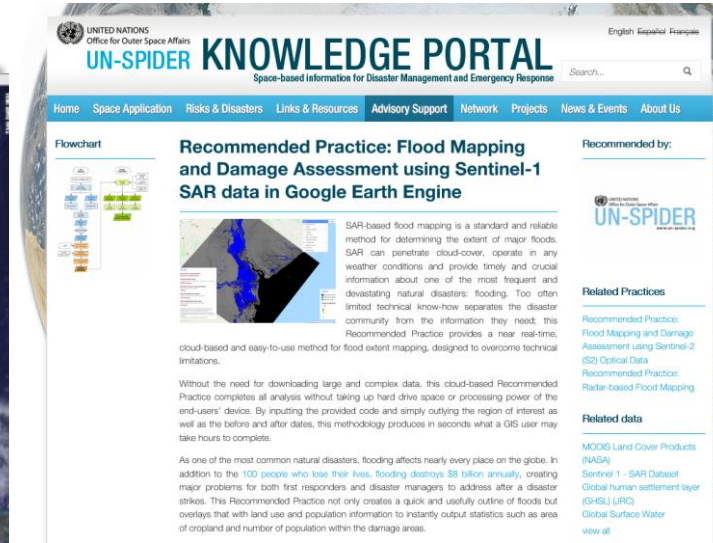
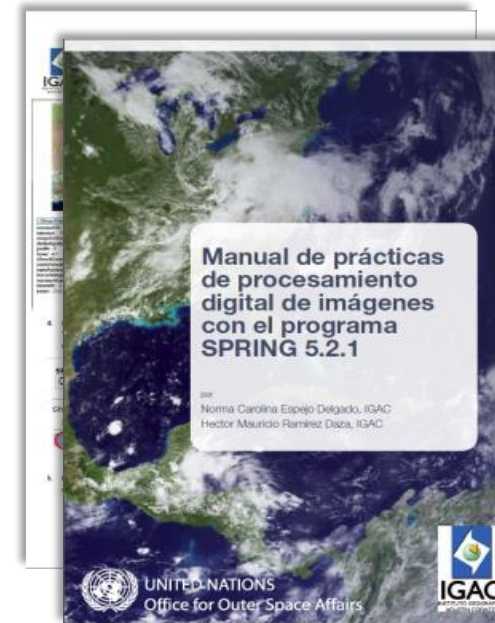
- ❑ Policy-relevant advice during Technical Advisory Missions
- ❑ Incorporating space-based technologies in National DRR strategies
- ❑ Developing specific tools
- ❑ Providing access to Earth observation data





Capacity-building and institutional strengthening

- ❑ Training courses on the use of Earth observation in disaster management:
- ❑ Procedural guidelines
- ❑ Recommended Practices
- ❑ Massive open online courses





WELCOME TO MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES (MOOC)

Track 1: Basic module

Track 2: Advanced module





MOOC: Geospatial Applications for Disaster Risk Management

Sessions by experts from 16 organisations



1. United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Austria
2. Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific (Affiliated to the United Nations), India
3. UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
4. Indian Space Research Organization
5. German Aerospace Center (DLR)
6. Joint Research Centre, Italy
7. International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Lanka
8. Delta State University, United States of America
9. University of Salzburg, Austria
10. Ruhr-University Bochum (RUB), Germany
11. Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), India
12. Maxar Technologies, Singapore
13. Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), India
14. Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN), Indonesia
15. Vasundharaa Geo Technologies, India



MOOC: Geospatial Applications for Disaster Risk Management

29,727 persons from 104 countries participated in the **Phase I** of the MOOC
11,892 participants successfully completed

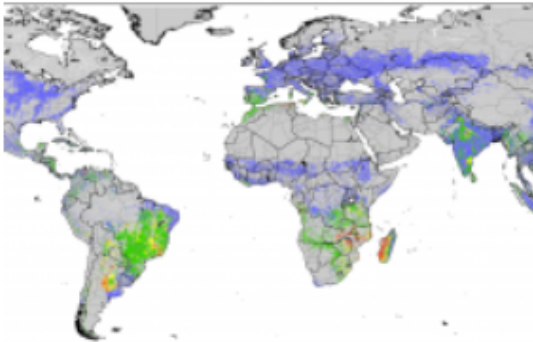
Phase II is Open – Free and Self-paced learning

Please register at

<https://isat.iirs.gov.in/mooc.php>



Data application of the month: Drought monitoring



Agricultural Stress Index (Image: FAO)

What is drought monitoring used for?

Droughts develop gradually; they are referred to as slow-onset natural hazards. Droughts often do not get any global attention until they trigger a famine or cause wildfires. Unfortunately, response to droughts is too often reactive in terms of crisis management. According to [WMO](#) droughts are by far the most damaging of all natural disasters because of their long-term socio-economic impacts. Early detection of droughts is important for managing emerging crop losses to prevent or mitigate possible related famines, and for dealing with increased fire risk. Satellite imagery helps to monitor precipitation, soil moisture, and vegetation health to support drought early warning systems. It is used to feed monthly drought bulletins and to issue warnings.

How are droughts monitored from Space?

Meteorological droughts are defined by rainfall deficiency over an extended period of time. Meteorological droughts can turn into **agricultural droughts**, which are characterized by a soil water deficiency and subsequent plant water stress and reduced yield. Agricultural droughts can then turn into **hydrological droughts**, which refer to deficiencies in surface and subsurface water supplies. The different drought definitions imply that several parameters are used to monitor drought: precipitation, temperature, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, and vegetation. These parameters can be observed from space.

Recommended practices on Drought



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Drought monitoring using the Standard Vegetation Index (SVI)

[Recommended Practice: Drought monitoring using the Standard Vegetation Index \(SVI\) | UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#)


Drought monitoring using the Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

[Recommended Practice: Drought monitoring using the Vegetation Condition Index \(VCI\) | UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#)

Drought monitoring using the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)

[Recommended Practice: Drought monitoring using the Standardized Precipitation Index \(SPI\) | UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#)

Google Earth Engine, R Studio, Envi software, and in the format of Jupyter notebooks



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UN-SPIDER KNOWLEDGE PORTAL

Space-based information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

[Home](#) [Space Application](#) [Risks & Disasters](#) [Links & Resources](#) [Advisory Support](#) [Network](#) [Projects](#)

Flowchart



Recommended Practice: Drought monitoring using the Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)



Figures 1770 displays and compares two VCI2 (left image: 1 day, 2008; & right image: 10 days, 2008).

Drought monitoring is an important component in drought early warning systems. This practice shows how to monitor the impacts of meteorological drought on natural vegetation using MODIS optical satellite imagery. The practice has been developed by the Iranian Space Agency, a Regional Support Office of UN-SPIDER. It can be followed using ENVI, RStudio or Python. It is similar to the practice developed by the Universidad Federal de Santa Maria (UFMS) in Brazil, however it uses the Vegetation Condition Index (VCI) instead of the Standard Vegetation Index (SVI).

[Step by Step](#) [In Detail](#)



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Ministry of I.C.T
IRANIAN SPACE AGENCY

United Nations/Islamic Republic of Iran Workshop on the

Space Technology Applications for **Drought**, Flood and **Water Resource Management**

9-11 August 2021, Tehran, Iran

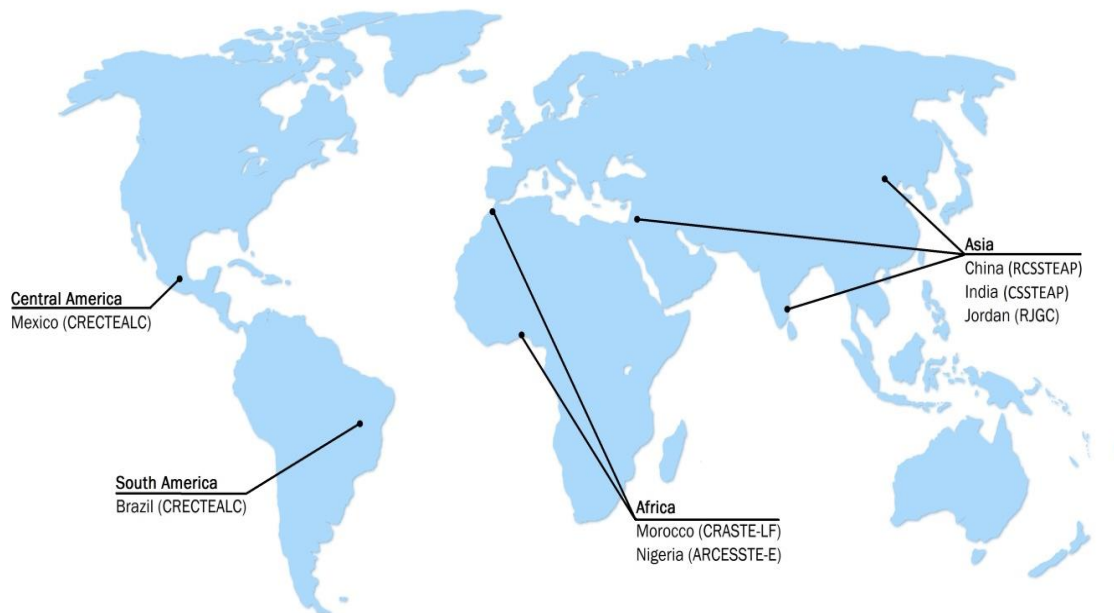


Registration before: Sunday, August 1, 2021

<https://un-spider.org/news-and-events/events/united-nationsislamic-republic-iran-workshop-space-technology-applications>



REGIONAL CENTRES FOR SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (AFFILIATED TO THE UNITED NATIONS)



Post graduate diploma and master courses in

- Remote Sensing and GIS
- Satellite communication
- Satellite navigation
- Satellite meteorology
- Space law

Short course on specific themes

Financial support offered



Supporting emergency response

- ❑ Enabling the National Disaster Management Agencies
- ❑ Facilitate access to pre and post event earth observation images
- ❑ Rapid response mapping



MAXAR



AIRBUS



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Thank you

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